

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

No. 748.—Vol. xv.

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1869.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

FRENCH POLITICS.

THE Emperor Napoleon has promised the Corps Législatif to make certain changes in a liberal direction in his system of government, and our daily contemporaries, almost with one accord, have been in ecstasies of exultation thereat. They have sung songs of triumph, and are perfectly satisfied that an era of real constitutional government is about to be inaugurated in France. Well, we hope they are right (for sure they ought to be), and that they are not counting unhatched chickens; but we should like to be a little better acquainted with details of the promised reforms before we join the universal pean. The Emperor's message no doubt contains the germs of great reforms—the eggs are there; but the incubatory process has yet to be performed, and in all such cases that process is of the very utmost importance. The details are yet wanting, the Emperor's words are vague—perhaps unavoidably so—and the interpretation of the deliverances of the Imperial oracle may fall very far short of what sanguine people anticipate. At all events, the French deputies do not seem to be very greatly elated by the promises made to them. They received the message with but slender indications of gratification, and on the Chamber being prorogued for an indefinite period they dispersed in ominous silence.

It seems evident, therefore, that the representatives of the French people are in the proverbially blessed condition

of expecting little; and, though we hope that they will be agreeably disappointed by the Emperor giving real and not merely nominal reforms, we cannot help thinking that French deputies must be better judges of their own prospects than are English journalists. That the true interests of the Emperor and his dynasty lie in according a larger measure of self-government to the French people is perfectly true, and our readers know our opinions on that point; but it is likewise true, as all history shows, that rulers rarely do perceive what is best for their real interest when that runs counter to their inclinations; and Napoleon III. may perhaps be no exception to the general rule. Still, the Emperor is believed to be an astute man and a clever politician; he is supposed to know his countrymen and to be capable of reading the signs of the times; he may not be deceived by the presence in the Chamber of a nominal majority of village representatives prepared to support his Government in whatever course he may pursue; on the contrary, he may be wise enough to take the hint conveyed by the result of the late elections in Paris and the large towns. We sincerely trust he may be, and do, all this. But it is also possible that he may fancy he can content his people with the semblance of concession while he denies them the reality, that he may cling to the system of personal government—for that is the essence of the question in France at this moment—while appearing to relinquish it. The like

has happened in the world ere now—yea, even in France since 1852; and the like may occur again.

So, for our part, while inclined to wait, like the French deputies, for details of the promised reforms before uttering a cry of jubilation, we think the best part of the Imperial concessions is that they have been conceded. The promised reforms may amount to much or they may amount to little; but that some concession has been felt to be necessary, in semblance if not in reality, seems to us a fact of great significance. If the Emperor be sincere in his professed desire to be in accord with his people and their representatives—and we do not wish to insinuate that he is not—and if he concedes a genuine and not merely a nominal increase of popular influence in the government, he will prove himself entitled to the reputation for sagacity and wisdom he has long enjoyed; and, whatever may be the extent of the reforms effected, if the French people and their representatives prove themselves to possess the patience, firmness, and wisdom with which, unfortunately, they are not usually credited, in the mere fact of his Majesty feeling constrained to yield something to the popular demands they have obtained a fulcrum with which they may ultimately lift from off their shoulders the heavy incubus of autocratic rule, and inaugurate a true era of rational political liberty. Every well-wisher of France, of the Bonaparte dynasty, and of freedom, will wait for and watch coming events with hope, not un-



BABY SHOW AT NORTH WOOLWICH GARDENS.

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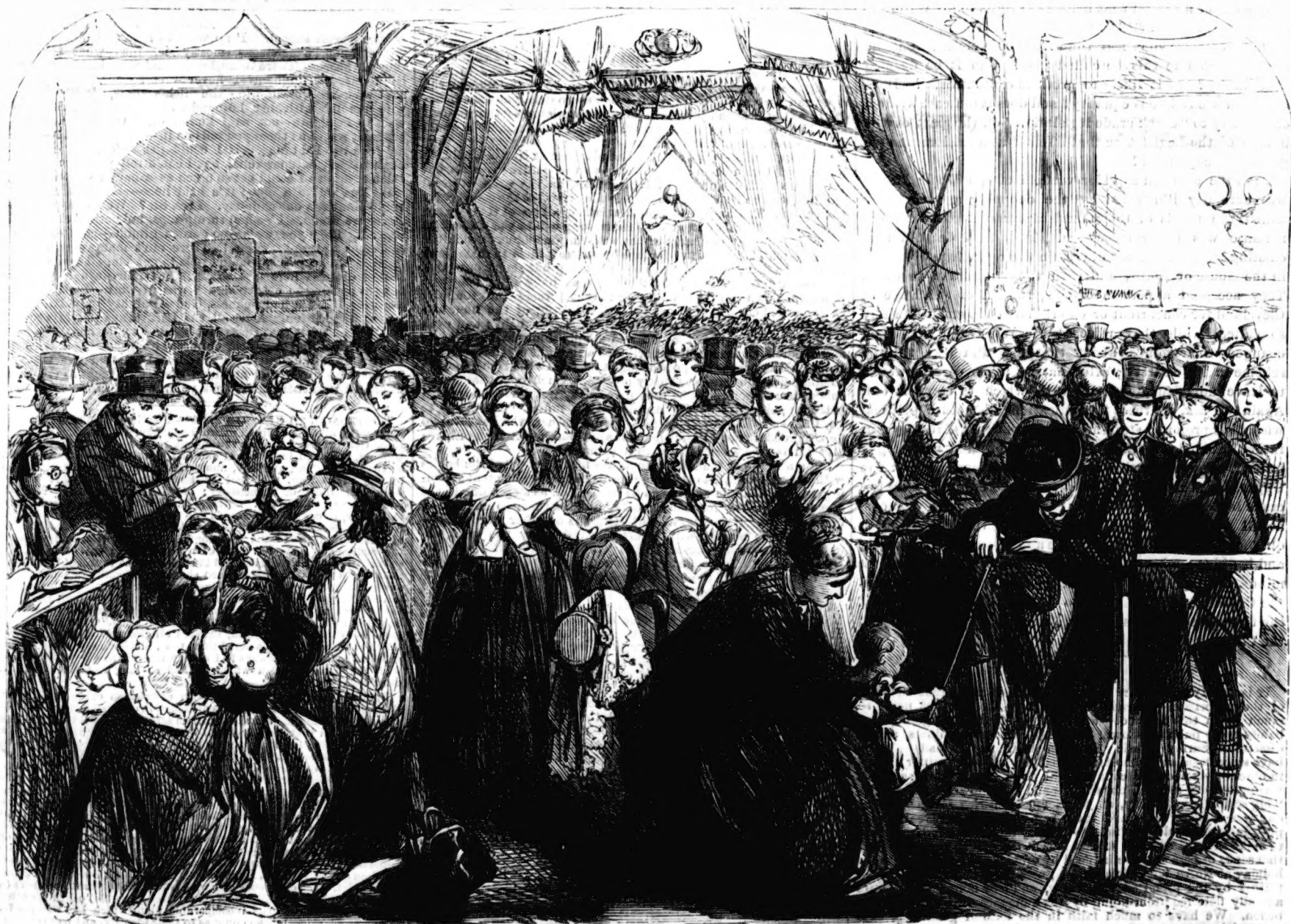
THE Emperor Napoleon has promised the Corps Législatif to make certain changes in a liberal direction in his system of government, and our daily contemporaries, almost with one accord, have been in ecstasies of exultation thereat. They have sung songs of triumph, and are perfectly satisfied that an era of real constitutional government is about to be inaugurated in France. Well, we hope they are right (for sure they ought to be), and that they are not counting unhatched chickens; but we should like to be a little better acquainted with details of the promised reforms before we join the universal pean. The Emperor's message no doubt contains the germs of great reforms—the eggs are there; but the incubatory process has yet to be performed, and in all such cases that process is of the very utmost importance. The details are yet wanting, the Emperor's words are vague—perhaps unavoidably so—and the interpretation of the deliverances of the Imperial oracle may fall very far short of what sanguine people anticipate. At all events, the French deputies do not seem to be very greatly elated by the promises made to them. They received the message with but slender indications of gratification, and on the Chamber being prorogued for an indefinite period they dispersed in ominous silence.

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dashed by misgiving. Under any circumstances, the Opposition will do well to accept the Emperor's reforms, if they be real reforms, however small; and with the instruments thus placed in their hands by degrees work out further improvements. That is how political freedom and constitutional government were obtained in England; that is how they are now being obtained in Germany; and that is how, to be permanent, they must be achieved in France and everywhere else. May both the French ruler and the French Chamber see and act upon this wise law! We know that there are wild spirits among the deputies; but it is to be hoped there are discreet ones too, and that the counsels of discretion will control those of blind impulsive enthusiasm.

THE LORDS' DEALINGS WITH THE CHURCH BILL.

It is impossible to write of current events, as it is our business to do, without again reverting to the subject of the Irish Church. In connection with that topic and the way in which the bill has been dealt with by the House of Lords, one reflection, we fancy, must occur to every thinking mind, and that is, how widely theory and practice may differ in political action. We have been accustomed for a long while past to hear much talk about the value of the Upper House as a check upon the "crude legislation" of the Lower; but certainly the action of the Lords on the Irish Church Bill does not justify the boast.

That measure went up to them a homogeneous whole. It carried out the object it was designed to effect; its details were consistent with its principle; and while it did justice, it seasoned that justice with mercy. As their Lordships have mauled it, the bill is a mere nondescript; it does not accomplish the purpose intended; its details are not consistent with its principle; it reinstitutes the very thing it was designed to abrogate; and, instead of doing justice seasoned by mercy, it is mainly made up of mercy to the nominally disendowed Church altogether unseasoned by justice to the other religious communions of Ireland. The reservation of an utterly insignificant sum to provide glebes and residences for the Roman Catholic priests and Presbyterian ministers, while millions are conferred upon the future Episcopal Church Body, seems to us neither more nor less than an insult—a mere invitation to a Barmecide feast while bands of Sybarites are faring sumptuously on every side. Were the bill passed with all the Lords' amendments—with all the iniquities, we should rather say, which they have piled upon it—the disestablished Church would absorb something over £13,000,000 out of a clear available capital of about £15,000,000; so that less than £2,000,000 would be left for division among Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and other Dissenters. And we call it neither more nor less than an insult to offer such a paltry sum to upwards of 5,000,000 of people out of a capital that belongs of right to all, while the enormous amount of £13,000,000 is given to the Episcopalian fraction of somewhat less than 700,000 persons. Can an arrangement like this be called just? Can it be deemed conciliatory? Is it likely to produce contentment? Does it inaugurate religious equality? and does it indicate wisdom or capacity to "check crude legislation" on the part of the branch of the Legislature that offers it as a settlement of a great public question?

Then the assumed superior wisdom of the Upper House was curiously illustrated by the chopping and changing which the minds of their Lordships underwent while the measure was under discussion. They first decided that existing Irish prelates should retain their privilege of sitting in the House of Lords, and then they refused it to them. They accepted a portion of the proposal of the Duke of Cleveland for concurrent or co-ordinate endowment, falsely so called, while they rejected the rest; and then they changed their minds about that too, and accepted the scheme in its entirety; after having taken care, however, to leave no adequate funds with which to carry it out. Again we ask, are these the indications of mature political wisdom or profound statesman-like sagacity? Are they not, rather, decided evidences of crude thought and hasty legislation? And, if so, what becomes of the boasted check the Upper House exercises, or is supposed to exercise, over the crude legislation of the Lower? The House of Commons, at all events, knew its own mind on the Irish Church question: it meant to disestablish and disendow the Church, and it did it; whereas the Lords did not know their own minds, and practically neither disestablished nor disendowed the Church, while affecting to do both. Of the action of the two Houses on this question, we decidedly prefer that of the Commons.

A BABY SHOW.

It is twenty years since the great Barnum's monstrous violation of the proprieties—he violated them a great deal, but never so much as in this instance—was feebly copied in England, and babies were publicly shown, like pigs and pelargoniums, at the disastrous Surrey Music Hall, in Kennington-road. There have since been, at the most, three baby shows—very minor affairs, in obscure parts of the country—till the Yankee showman's idea was practically revived, on what he and his followers would call a "big scale," on Monday, at the North Woolwich Gardens. The day was signally fine, and those same gardens are really very pleasant, and would take much vulgarity of the music-hall stamp to make them otherwise; so that it is as difficult to say how many thousands of persons were induced by ordinary attractions to make holiday at North Woolwich as to guess how many were drawn thither by the promised baby show, and how many, again, were actually deterred from going by the announcement of that exhibition. We have so much faith in the natural good taste of a pretty fair proportion of the people as to believe that numbers who would have chosen the place for a day's enjoyment were kept away by a certain very commendable objection to the character of the special programme. There must be some among the least refined

who perceive a terrible incongruity and unfitness of things in the project of a baby show. Does anyone remember—rather let us ask can anyone forget—John Leech's delightful piece of fancy on the subject of a baby show? How lifelike it was; how full of pretty natural touches, and yet how ludicrously impossible of fulfilment in any trivial part of its graceful conceit. From the true artist's imaginative sketch to the coarse reality of Monday's picture, what a step! And yet there were, as one may suppose, a great many children as chubbily beautiful as that "noble boy" who, as the label above his head declared, could "eat a large mutton chop," or as any of the round, soft little morsels of humanity in Leech's drawing who were tickled with the words, "Fed on natural diet." In long rows, penned off from the stream of observers, the children were ranged in their mothers' arms. How many entries there may have been we cannot say; but it seems that as many as a thousand applications were rejected because of failure to comply with the rules. Indeed, the place of exhibition was surrounded with disappointed mothers, clamorous for redress of their supposed wrongs. One had come from Manchester, others from places almost or quite as far off. The accepted babies were, "by their next of kin," as the lawyers say, as much given to complaining as the rejected. For the most part they were wonderfully quiet themselves; but their mammas had a few words to say when "refreshment" did not come round quite as promptly as could have been wished, though strong men were pouring porter continually from cans of a reassuring size. There were, as we have intimated, plenty of fine children; one of eight months and another of eighteen bidding hard for the chief prizes. The youngest mother in the show was fifteen and a few months; and the youngest child was six weeks, except in the notable case of a triplet of babes who were but eighteen days old, and whose mother nursed one at a time, while a friend held the other two. In wretched contrast to a baby giant, who looked like a living copy of the Infant Samuel Johnson as Hercules strangling the snakes, in Sir Joshua's famous canvas, those puny three called forth pity more than curious interest. They were very old-looking—one in particular resembling a homely piece of antique ugliness in a picture of Holbein's. They were also very small, their poor little arms and legs being no bigger than a man's finger. In fine, they were decidedly not fit objects of exhibition, if it can be allowed that any of the best-grown babies were.

With a long green esplanade, finely shadowed by trees, on the very margin of the river, and with many winding paths and broad avenues, and open plats of turf, the North Woolwich Gardens are as capable of being made truly popular as any pleasure-grounds of their kind. Nor does the present proprietor lack energy in supplying entertainments suitable to the demands of his patrons. In the case of the baby show, it may be pardonable to hope that he has made, for once, a mistake.

The show, and the approaches thereto, are thus described in the columns of our promising young contemporary, the *Echo*:—

"There was no room for incredulity about the show directly you found yourself inside Fenchurch station, which was one of the main points of departure. The mothers of Great Britain (we use the words advisedly) had taken the thing seriously, and were booking for North Woolwich in most astonishing numbers. The fathers of Great Britain who were not in the secret looked scared as troop after troop of these curious passengers, with their still more curious packages of live freight, came up the stairs leading to the platform and took their places in the train. The porters at the different stations—where more passengers, with more luggage of the same description, were waiting to be taken in—smiled meaningly at one another and at the guard as they helped to fill every nook and cranny of the train with entries for the show. The interior of the carriages was simply unbearable—we mean delightful—so incessantly did the 'entries' wail and splutter, and kick, and plunge while the final touches were being put to their toilettes, and the last meal that could possibly be put into their mouths before the show commenced was being administered to them. At a little distance off, the train, as it sped along to its destination, must have sounded like a wandering wail to the more poetic among the rustics whose dwellings fringe the Blackwall line. "It was impossible to doubt, from these sights and sounds, that the show would come off and that it would be pretty numerously attended. But to anyone who had known that this was but one of many trains, all bearing the same burden, that were to start during the day, and that side by side with every train, along the river, ran a steam-boat filled with babies to the gunwale, incredulity as to the sound judgment of the proprietor of the gardens would have seemed something more than an indiscretion—it would have seemed an insult and a crime.

"Babies, babies everywhere! The platform at North Woolwich was crowded with them; the entrance to the gardens was all but choked up with the crowd of local babies, in the arms of local mothers, who had come out to witness the arrival of the competitors from town. The long avenues and winding alleys of the spacious gardens were thickly dotted with them, long before the show commenced. The man in charge of the weighing-machine, outside the entrance-tent, made a little fortune by putting them to scale; and for full one hour, by the clock, he did nothing but shout out 'One stone'—something, and pocket pennies, as baby after baby was plumped down on the union-jack that formed the roughly-extemporised cushion of the chair. The feeling of the hour was contagious. Everybody praised everybody else's baby; and even the few fathers of families who had simply brought their wives and children out for a holiday, without a thought of the competition, could not resist the good things that fell to their share of the compliments showered so thickly around. Such conversations as this were common:—'Is he (any given baby not entered for competition) going to show?' Mother—'No, mum.' 'He ought to go, I am sure. Look at his legs.' Happy father, who has hitherto kept a proud silence—'Ah! and that ain't puffed-out flesh either—all solid as if he was stuffed with horsehair.'

"But attention: the time approaches for the entry of the babies with their mothers into the large theatre and the huge tent adjoining it, in which the show is to be held. Let us step round to the stage-door marked 'for mothers only,' and see them go in. It is a curious scene. Hypocrisy avails—there is no other word for it—a scene to be recalled with a sort of shudder by the most undaunted family man for all the days of his life. There are 500 babies entered. There are 500 mothers with the babies. There are 500 bottleholders, in the shape of female relatives or friends, with the mothers; and they have all to pass, two by two, through a little door guarded by three policemen, each one of whom looks as though he would infinitely prefer meeting the stoutest navy in Woolwich, in his stoutest boots, to performing the duty that happens to be nearest to him on this trying July day.

"It is better inside the theatre. Numbered chairs, ranged in alleys within boundary lines of stout beams of wood, have been placed the whole length of the house and of the adjoining marquee, and on them the mothers, after showing their ticket of entry, take their seats. In a short time the place is full, and there arises from the assemblage the same odd discord of sounds heard in the train, as some of the infantine orchestra tune their throats for fuller performances to come, and others break out into full scream while their noses are being wiped. They know no rivalry, the sweet things; but offer little courtesies to one another with their fists, as if no contest were imminent for the proud palm of beauty and of fat. Some of them are so injudicious as to get into a thorough passion with themselves, and to fret away their obesity with a recklessness that must seriously jeopardise their chances of a prize. As they all sit crying, biting, jumping, crowing, clutching there, the horrid thought will rise, what, if they should all get mixed? Would their mothers be able to pick them out again? Impossible; they all seem so very much alike.

"But there are differences, we soon perceive, when we come to look at them a little closer; and some have a distinctly better chance for the prizes than others. A word as to the prizes and the conditions of competition. The first class is for 'triplets' under

twelve months, and the best triplet gets £10. The second class is for twins, the finest—'pair' or 'set,' which is it?—winning £5. The third class is for the most healthy and beautiful boy (£10 and silver cup), the fourth for the most healthy and beautiful girl, the fifth for the finest or heaviest child under six months, the sixth for the finest or heaviest child under twelve months. There are, thus, it will be seen, prizes for beauty, and prizes for weight, and prizes for both combined. There are also prizes for elegantly fitted-up cradles and bassinets. The jury of twelve is composed of ladies and nurses 'in equal parts.' There are medical gentlemen in attendance. The babies must have been vaccinated, and must be in good health. The mothers of competitors will be provided with refreshments. We have thus huddled together a few of the leading sentences from the card of competition in the irregular way in which they come into our mind, still under the influence of the strange confusions of this strange scene."

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LABOURER.

The following sketch is from *Good Words* for July:—
"Altogether the village seems an 'idyllic' kind of place to live in; but let us hear how its inhabitants do live in it. At another public-house labourers are taking their midday rest and beer. One of them is picked out by his fellows to give the information required, as being most familiar with all kinds of agricultural labour. He has scanty, iron-grey hair, moistly wiped down on his weather-beaten forehead, and white stubble on his chin. He wears corduroy trousers, and a bone-buttoned fustian jacket, and his brickdust-coloured throat is bare. This is what he says spontaneously and in reply to questions:—'Yes, Sir, I can do any kind o' hagricult'ral labour. Ast anybody that knows me; I don't care who ye ast. I've worked for Mr. — and Mr. —, close by; an' you can goo to them when you've done talkin' to me. I'll goo from the plough even to the buildin' an' thetchin', an' that takes it all through. I've been a prizeman at the buildin' an' thetchin'. Law bless ye, Sir; it ain't confined to this parish! Men comes from thirty and forty miles round—t'other side, a long way o' the Chilterns; 15s. is the first prize, and 12s. 6d. the second. I can't say what the third is. I never got so low as that. I get 5s. the square naked work, a-thetchin', and 3s. 6d. the other. P'raps I'm better off than some—moor so than many be. The work's in my hands, an' I know how to do it, and so they can't take it out. A ploughman hereabouts may get 14s a week, an' a shepherd the same; but, take it all round, wages is 10s or 11s. Some of the farmers let out their work at hay time and harvest, an' then you may get moor. But then you're days and days out o' work in the year. I reckon that I don't get moor than eight months out o' the twelve, an' my boys don't get that. Yes, you may call me odd man, if you like—I'll turn my hand to anything. An' so'll my boys. One of 'em's sixteen, and the other's quite grown up. An' I've had to keep them two great boys all winter—an' will, if I can. Yes, all the winter I have—'cept when there come a machine, an' they get 2s. or 1s. 6d. a day for takin' away the straw an' chaff. They'll goo crow-keepin'—sixpence they'll push in for; and what's moor, they'll bring it home. That'll buy a loaf o' bread. Half a loaf, we say, is better than none—much moor a whole an'. If they could but earn a shillin' a week each certain, that 'ud be summat. Sometimes my youngest son gets a job pig-drivin' to Aylesbury, but the soldiers is al'ays at him, an' that makes him rusty, an' he swears. He don't want to be forced to goo for a soldier. He's a great tall chap, and so's his brother. You see, Sir, he ain't eighteen yet, an' so his time wouldn't count, would it, Sir? I want him to try for the police, but he says, 'No, father, I'll never be a bobby—not if I starve.' I'm six in family, Sir—four gals, youngest is eight. All on 'em plait, but that's like throwin' one a'penny arter another. You buy sixpenn'orth o' straw, an' you gets 9d. for it when it's done, an' it takes you four or five hours to do it. Some, p'raps, can do the thirty yards in three and a half; that's according to quickness. Twopence a week is what's paid at the plaitin' schools. If I'd to pay that for my gals now it would pull me all to pieces. There'd be 8d. a week goin' out—see how that would muddle me. A ld. a week, I think, is what they pay at the parish school. I no wish to speak ill o' hannybody, but my opinion o' parsons mostly is, that what they've got they'll keep. There's no lacemakin' just here. They may be about Buckingham—I never was so far. No, you won't see women workin' in the fields here, 'cept, p'raps, a wife reapin' with her husband at harvest. No, Sir; I've no wish to hemigate—not as I knows of. Of course, if I could get such wages as them you tells on in—where was it?—an' house an' food to—I'd take 'em if I could get to 'em. There's people here that get outdoor relief, but I can't tell ye much about that. I don't suppose I could get so much as a parish doctor to come to me. Yes, we've a club; it's held here—sixteenpence a month. Whit-Monday's our club-day. Live, Sir? We live as we can, and not as we would. I've had turnip-tops, an' nothin' else, an' them begged. Bless you, we've no garden ground—not so much as we could put a plant in. Pigs! There ain't many pigs about here. If we could keep 'em, we ain't able to get 'em. There was a good deal of distress here last winter. For four days I'd nothing—next to nothing to eat, though I was in work—I was clearin' off a score. If we'd had sickness, God Almighty only knows where we should ha' been. Arter all, the Lord al'ays provides somehow. If He hadn't put that there givt o' mine to do anything into my hands, how would my poor children ha got on? I don't know who ye are, Sir, or what ye are; but I've told you more about myself than I ever told any man afore. If I was to tell ye all, it would fill that there black book ye 're writin' in."

TESTIMONIAL TO GENERAL PEEL.—A testimonial dinner was given on Wednesday afternoon, in the Corn Exchange, Huntingdon, to the Right Hon. General Peel, on his retirement from the representation of the borough, of which he has been one of the members upwards of thirty-seven years. The company, numbering nearly 200, was presided over by the Right Hon. the Earl of Sandwich, and amongst the guests were the Duke of Manchester; Mr. Fellowes, M.P.; Mr. Foster (the Mayor), &c. Mr. Baring, M.P., was unable to be present in consequence of the death of Lord Taunton. The memorial formed a beautifully-illustrated volume, which included the names of the subscribers to the testimonial. It was at first intended that the testimonial should consist of a handsome piece of plate, with a suitable inscription; but General Peel stated that it would be more agreeable to him that the money raised should be devoted to some additional accommodation for patients, or in some other way for the benefit of the County Hospital. The committee had therefore placed at the disposal of the trustees of the hospital a sum sufficient to purchase £100 Consols, hereafter to be called the "Peel Testimonial Fund." General Peel, in a speech of considerable length, thanked all present for the honour which they had done him, and assured them that, although separated from them politically, he should always feel a deep interest in everything connected with the borough, with which he had so long had the honour to be connected.

BLOOMSBURY FLOWER SHOW.—An association exists in St. George's, Bloomsbury, to encourage, by the distribution of small money prizes, habits of order and cleanliness in the domestic arrangements of the large class of poor people in that locality whose dwellings are limited to a single room for a whole family; and to promote by a similar incentive a taste for cultivating flowers at their windows. Varying success has attended the experiment. On some occasions the annual exhibition of plants and flowers has been very meritorious, on others it has been rather poor, while in one or two instances there was no exhibition at all. That which was held on Tuesday in the inclosed garden of Russell square may be regarded as of a medium character, demanding no special notice either of praise or blame. Prizes varying from 10s. to 2s. were given for fuchsias, geraniums, ferns, and other pot plants; and, remembering the limited means of the growers, most of the successful specimens were very creditable. The most popular portion of the show was class 4, in which the competitors were the children of the National, Infant, Sunday, Parochial, and Ragged Schools of the district. The clamorous glee with which the fortunate winners (many of them little ragged children of six or seven years old) called the attention of every passer by to the incomparable plant which had won the 7s. 6d., 5s., or 2s. 6d. prize, left no doubt as to their identity, and was certainly the most amusing part of the exhibition. By the aid of a band of music, tents, and bunting, sufficient of the character of a fête was given to the gathering to make it attractive, and a pretty numerous attendance resulted.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Session of the Chamber was prorogued on Tuesday by an Imperial decree, and by another the Senate is summoned to meet on Aug. 2. The whole of the Ministers have resigned, and now only hold office till their successors are appointed. M. Rouher's definitive retirement from the Ministry is said to be certain. The *France* says that the Emperor has offered him the presidency of the Senate. M. Baroche will also go; and M. de Lavalette and the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne (Minister in London) are likely to change places. M. Magne, M. Forcade de la Roquette, Admiral Ricault de Genouilly, and Marshal Niel will keep their places. M. Olivier will take nothing. There was quite a disturbance in the Chamber on Tuesday, in consequence of M. Jules Favre protesting against the contradiction between the Imperial message and the decree of prorogation. "The decree is in itself an impropriety," he said, amid great noise. He was rebuked by the President, but cheered by the Left. The decree was afterwards read, and the deputies separated in silence.

The message of the Emperor Napoleon to the Legislative Body was taken into consideration by the members of the *Tiers Parti*, at a meeting on Monday evening, when it was resolved that, under the circumstances, their interpellation should not be pressed at present. The Left, or advanced Liberal party, has determined to remain permanently in Paris. According to a rumour, which is generally considered to be well founded, the Chamber, instead of remaining closed until October, will be convoked almost immediately.

The sudden prorogation of the Chamber is commented upon in a very unfavourable manner by most of the Paris papers. The *Temps*, the *Opinion Nationale*, the *Gazette de France*, the *Avenir National*, the *Presse*, the *Journal de Paris*, and the *Reformateur*, all regard it as a very ill-judged measure. It is pointed out that even the specific purpose for which the Chamber met—viz., the verification of the elections—has not yet been accomplished; and the Government is accused of closing the House in order to stifle all further discussion. The *Débats* thinks, however, that the prorogation was all but inevitable under present circumstances, owing to the resignation of the Ministry.

ITALY.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the charges of Parliamentary corruption in the affair of the tobacco contract has come to a unanimous conclusion that the charges are not proved.

SPAIN.

General Prim presented the members of the new Ministry on Wednesday to the Cortes. He remarked that the present Cabinet was constituted from the ranks of the majority of the Chamber, and he declared, on behalf of the new Administration, that it would uphold at any cost public order and respect for the Constitution.

AUSTRIA.

The Delegation of the Austrian Reichsrath was opened on Sunday. Some Polish members were present. Count Beust announced, on the part of the Emperor, that his Majesty intends personally to greet the Delegation. Prince Carlos Auersperg was elected President, and Herr von Hopfen Vice-President. The President, in his opening speech, pointed out, at considerable length, the importance and proved vitality of the institution of the Delegations. Baron Beust submitted the Budget estimates. The Delegation of the Hungarian Diet was also opened on Sunday. All the Ministers of departments of "Common Affairs" were present. Count Majlath was elected President, and Herr Bitto Vice-President. Under-Secretary of State Baron von Orczy presented the Budget for Common Affairs.

The trial of the Bishop of Linz terminated on Monday. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of "Guilty" on the charge of uttering subversive doctrines and attempting to disturb public order; and the Bishop was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The Public Prosecutor had asked that the sentence should be imprisonment for six months.

A new and very important institution has just been created in Austria under the name of the Reichsgericht, or State Court of Appeal. This Court, the members of which are selected from the most eminent men in Austria, is to decide all cases of conflict between the people and the authorities on questions of Constitutional right. The infallibility of the official, which has hitherto been a State maxim in Austria, has by this measure been abolished, and every Austrian citizen who considers that his political rights are interfered with by the Administration can now appeal to the Reichsgericht for redress. The function of the Reichsgericht is, in fact, to maintain the Constitution inviolate and to secure to the Austrian people the full enjoyment of the rights it confers upon them.

Disturbances are reported from Bruenn, in Moravia, in which two persons have been killed and twelve wounded by the military called out to disperse the crowd.

SERVIA.

The Constitution, having been sanctioned by the Regency, was promulgated on Sunday amid salvos of artillery. The Skuptschina was then closed, and the members separated, manifesting great enthusiasm. The President of the Regency, in closing the Session, said:—"The internal independence of Serbia is established. The people have given themselves a Constitution. Serbia has obtained liberty without bloodshed. If liberty be united with order, Serbia will flourish."

SWITZERLAND.

The States Council has ratified by a large majority the treaty of commerce with the Zollverein, the convention for the protection of literary property with the North German Confederation, and the treaty with Württemberg respecting the law of naturalisation.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Hon. John Rose has arrived in Washington to open negotiations for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada.

The Fenian Colonel Warren has had an interview with the President, who has ordered an investigation to be instituted into several cases specified by him of imprisonment of Irish Americans by the British authorities.

According to advices from Cuba, General Caballero de Rodas has issued a proclamation declaring that all vessels transporting insurgents shall be treated as pirates.

There was an Irish party riot in New York on Monday night. A procession of Orangemen was attacked by a party of Catholics, and thirty persons were injured before the police succeeded in quelling the disturbance.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Three South American revolutions are reported by the papers received by the West Indian steamer the *Neva*. In Bolivia the President, Melgarejo, had given up the dictatorship and re-established a Constitution. In Costa Rica the Constitution had been suspended, and President Zimenez had been appointed Dictator. A revolution had occurred against Spain at Puerto Rico. The city of Ponce was set on fire by insurgents, and nearly burned to the ground. Several prominent and wealthy Spaniards and soldiers were killed, and most of the rich families had left.

Spain and Chili are at peace—that is to say, an armistice has been agreed to for an indefinite period, and hostilities are not to be resumed without two years' notice being given by the party wishing to fight.

According to advices from the theatre of war in Paraguay, the Comte d'Eu has gained two important victories over the Paraguayans, which are considered almost decisive.

CUBA.

A circular has been issued by the Prussian Consul-General at Havana to the German residents in the United States, cautioning them against connecting themselves with any of the Cuban ill-

bustering expeditions. The circular, which was distributed by the agency of the German Consuls throughout the United States, attributes the subsidence of the insurrection in Cuba to the decisive course taken by the American Government with regard to the neutrality laws.

AUSTRALIA.

The Legislature of Victoria has embarked in a constitutional struggle with the Supreme Court of that colony. It appears that two members of the Assembly have been expelled by a vote of the House, and that two other persons have been imprisoned by order of the same body for alleged complicity with corrupt practices. The Supreme Court ordered the release of the two prisoners on a technical ground, but in all probability the Legislature will appeal against this decision to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

FRENCH POLITICS.

MESSAGE FROM THE EMPEROR.

In Monday's sitting of the Legislative Body, M. Rouher, Minister of State, read the following message from the Emperor:—

"By the declaration of the 28th ultimo I announced that I should submit, at the ordinary Session of the Chamber, the resolutions and plans which seemed most fitting to realise the wishes of the country. However, as the Legislative Body appears desirous to learn immediately what reforms have been decided upon, I think it right to anticipate its aspirations.

"It is my firm intention to give to the powers of the Legislative Body that extension which is compatible with the fundamental bases of the Constitution.

"I now lay before you by this message the decisions which have been taken at the Council.

"The Senate will be convoked as soon as possible to examine the following questions—viz.:—

"1st. The powers to be accorded to the Legislative Body, including the right of laying down the regulations relating to its proceedings and the right of electing its bureau.

"2nd. The simplification of the mode of presenting and considering amendments.

"3rd. To make it obligatory upon the Government to submit to the Legislative Body all modifications of the tariffs in international treaties.

"4th. The voting of the Budget by chapter, in order to render the control of the Legislative Body more complete.

"5th. The suppression of the incompatibility hitherto existing between the position of deputy and the assumption of certain public functions, particularly those of Ministers.

"6th. The extension of the right of interpellation.

"The Government will also deliberate upon questions relating to the position of the Senate and the more efficient solidarity which will be established between the Chamber and the Government; the faculty of exercising simultaneously the functions of Minister and deputy; the presence of all the Ministers in the Chambers; the discussion of affairs of State in the Council; the establishment of a real understanding with the majority elected by the country, and the creation of all those guarantees which we seek in our common solicitude.

"I have already shown several times how much I am disposed to relinquish in the public interest certain of my prerogatives.

"The modifications which I have decided to propose constitute the natural development of those which have successively been made in the institutions of the empire. They must at the same time leave intact the prerogatives which the people have most explicitly confided to me, and which are the essential conditions of power and of the preservation of order and society."

HOW THE EMPEROR'S MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED.

By one o'clock on Monday the Corps Législatif was crowded with deputies discussing coming events in the various halls and committee-rooms, and at half-past two President Schneider took the chair. M. Rouher was the first Minister to make his appearance, and a number of faithful deputies shook hands with him as he sat in his place. Four or five other Ministers then dropped in, and a group of adherents formed in front of their bench. M. Buffet, on entering the Chamber, walked over to the Left and entered into conversation with MM. Pelletan, Bethmont, and some other gentlemen of extremely liberal views. M. Thiers walked into the centre of the Chamber, leaning on the arm of M. d'Audellare; and the House being flooded with members, the President called upon hon. gentlemen to be seated. After a few formalities had been got through, M. Schneider announced the Minister of State, and M. Rouher ascended the tribune. There was hardly a deputy absent from his seat, the galleries were crowded to suffocation, and directly opposite the Minister was Prince Napoleon in the Emperor's box. The Duke of Persigny, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and other notabilities were also present. In the midst of a dead silence, M. Rouher proceeded to read the Emperor's letter to his faithful Commons, and from the knowledge that he is playing a losing game, or from some other feeling, the Minister was actually as nervous as a debutant. He appeared somewhat relieved when he got to the concessions agreed to in Council at St. Cloud, and, as he flattered them one by one before the eyes of the Opposition, he glanced towards the Left, as much as to say, "These liberalities will outmanoeuvre you." The Right cried "Très-bien!" two or three times, but the Left remained silent as doom. M. Thiers twirled a pen between his fingers and kept his eyes steadily on the Minister, who so short a time ago had stated from the same place that the only business of the Session would be to verify powers. M. Ernest Picard shrugged his shoulders, and seemed inclined to interrupt, but he refrained. When the Minister had finished the letter the Right applauded, and two or three deputies ventured on a "Vive l'Empereur!" in favour of reforms which had they been proposed last Parliament, would have been scouted by these pliable Arcadians. There was hardly any applause from the Left. Centre benches, the Marquis de Talhouet and Messrs. Buffet and Segrès remained motionless; and though the official account of the letter published a few minutes after it was read leads to the supposition that the Imperial document was received with enthusiasm, such was not the case. M. Rouher left the Chamber directly he descended from the tribune, the Chamber immediately broke up into anxious groups, and it was some time before order could be restored for the election of the secretaries.

There was great excitement along the boulevards in the evening, and knots of people discussed the message, which made a favourable impression on the Bourse.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—A great meeting, to protest against concurrent endorsement, was held, at St. James's Hall, on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P. A number of members of Parliament and other influential gentlemen were among the speakers. Resolutions condemning the Lords' amendments on the Irish Church Bill were passed. Similar meetings have been held at a great number of places in the provinces. At Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Dundee, Manchester, Huddersfield, Stockton-on-Tees, Norwich, Dewsbury, and other places meetings have been held, most of which were largely attended, at which the amendments made by the Upper House were condemned, and resolutions passed urging the Government not to accept those amendments. On the other side, what is called a "great national Protestant demonstration" against the Irish Church Bill was held at Blackheath, last Saturday, but seems to have been a failure. Not more than between 2000 and 3000 persons were present, and among these the Radical element appeared to be predominant. A cart containing several members of the late Reform League was driven up to the front of the van which contained the principal promoters of the meeting; and at one time there seemed to be a probability that the occupants of the two vehicles would resort to physical-force arguments, but the interference of "a solitary mounted policeman," we are told, "had the effect of checking physical violence." Resolutions were prepared protesting against the Irish Church Bill and any endorsement of the Roman Catholic religion, and thanking the opponents of the bill in the two Houses of Parliament; but who proposed and seconded these resolutions, or what became of them, the reporters were unable to ascertain. The promoters of the "demonstration" have since been quarrelling among themselves as to who is responsible for the fiasco.

THE TWELFTH OF JULY IN IRELAND.

THE 12th of July has passed off more peaceably in Ulster than was expected. The Orange demonstrations were largely attended, and the brethren marched to the meetings with music, flags, and sashes, in the usual manner. The Roman Catholics wisely abstained from any interference with these displays, and there was, happily (with one trivial exception), no collision between the rival parties. The exception occurred at Londonderry. A number of armed Roman Catholics, variously stated at from 800 to 1500, assembled at a place called Wolf's Glen, in expectation, it is said, of a visit from the Orangemen. They met with no opposition, however, and had to return to Londonderry without an opportunity of fighting. When a portion of them reached the city they came in contact with an opposing mob, and a scuffle took place in the Diamond, famous for party fights. One man, a Roman Catholic, was stabbed; but the wound is not dangerous. The police interposed and speedily restored order. The meeting at Saintfield was attended chiefly by the Orangemen of North Down. Mr. William Beers, one of the heroes of Dolly's Brae, presided, and the venerable Lord Roden, who was also mixed up with that transaction, sent a long letter of apology, full of sympathy with his brother Orangemen in the present crisis of Protestantism in Ireland. Mr. William Keown, M.P., was one of the speakers at this meeting. Lord Massareene took the chair at a meeting held in his own park. This young gentleman said he had lately joined the Orange institution, and he strongly advised every Protestant to do so also. There were also meetings at Lambeg, Tanderagee, Grey Abbey, Monaghan, and Killyman, in the county of Tyrone. The latter was presided over by Mr. William Johnston, M.P. The law was violated here, as in other instances. The Orangemen displayed their bands and sashes, and the officers of the different lodges carried the insignia of their various offices, while, in proceeding along the public roads, the bands by whom they were accompanied played "The Boyne Water" and other party tunes. The speaking was of the usual character. Mr. Johnston disclaimed any intention of taking a position hostile to the Roman Catholics. They came there to vindicate their rights and liberties and to rally round the Orange flag. It was well, he said, that the proud Parliament of England should learn that the Orangemen of Ulster will stand by the Protestant religion and by their Protestant liberties. After a good deal of vague talk of this kind, Mr. Johnston declared that, while protesting against disestablishment and disendowment, they were not afraid of the result; but, in future, the Church in Ireland must be free, and the laity must have their due share in its government. It was questionable how much the religion of the Church of England was the religion of Protestantism at all. There was so much Puseyism, Ritualism, and semi-Romanism in it that he hesitated to bestow the epithet Protestant on a large number of the clergy of the Church of England; and he believed a free Church in Ireland would be far more of a Protestant Church than it would be if tied neck and heels to the Establishment across the Channel. Mr. Johnston, amidst the cheers of his audience, emphatically protested against the endowment of the Church of Rome in any shape or form. Mr. Johnston repeatedly repudiated hostility to the Roman Catholics, and said nothing had caused him so much regret this year as the conduct of persons calling themselves Protestants who fired at the Roman Catholics at Poyntzpass on St. Patrick's Day. The true spirit of the Protestant democratic principle which he represented there that day was to extend to others the liberty which they claimed for themselves. Resolutions protesting against the Church Bill were adopted at this and other meetings. There was an Orange soirée at the Rotundo in Dublin. The attendance was large, and among the speakers were several Protestant clergymen.

There has been rioting in Belfast, after all, in connection with the Orange demonstrations. Between eight o'clock on Tuesday night and three on Wednesday morning tremendous mobs assembled in the streets and broke windows and sacked Catholic chapels. Something of the same kind happened at Lurgan; and in Newry three persons are said to have been shot.

THE COBDEN CLUB.—The annual dinner of the Cobden Club took place at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, last Saturday, under the presidency of the Duke of Argyll. It was very numerous and influentially attended. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening—"Prosperity to the Cobden Club"—said "the present position of the Liberal party was an illustration of the good effects of the teachings of the esteemed man whose memory they had assembled to celebrate, and of the practical history of the distinguished person whom he was sure they all felt proud to call their leader." The Hon. G. C. Brodrick responded, and gave an encouraging account of the position of the club. Mr. J. S. Mill proposed "The Honorary Members and Guests," and M. Michel Chevalier replied. Mr. Arles Dufour proposed "The Memory of Richard Cobden." Mr. George Walker, of Massachusetts, and Mr. T. B. Potter also spoke.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The proceedings connected with the Agricultural Society (the thirtieth annual meeting) commenced, on Monday, at Manchester. The show-ground is at Old Trafford, on the south-western edge of the city, and occupies the site of the Art-Treasures Exhibition. The show-ground extends over a length of three quarters of a mile, and is on the western side of the South Junction Railway, and about 120 acres of ground on the other side of the railway has been cropped with rye-grass, clover, and oats for the trial of implements. Up to Monday the show of implements of husbandry and other articles was nearly complete, though it was not open to the public till Friday. The committee were making an inspection of the implements on Monday with a view to select from them such as it was desirable should undergo a trial. The Prince of Wales is expected to visit the show on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; but the visit of Tuesday, in company with the Princess, after a Royal progress through Salford and Manchester, will be the great attraction for the public. It is expected that the Prince on that day will preside at a luncheon given by the Royal Agricultural Society. The Duke of Cambridge is expected to be present at this meeting, and Prince Teck is to distribute the prizes of the Royal Horticultural Society. The Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of Marlborough, Viscount Bridport, Earl Granville, the Earl of Ellesmere, the Earl of Sefton, Lord Kesteven, Lord Tredegar, Lord Walsingham, Lord Chesham, and Sir Edward E. Kerrison are expected to be present. There is also to be a deputation from the Société des Agriculteurs de France, including his Excellency M. Drouyn de Lhuys, president of the society. The show is expected to be one of the largest the society has held. There are 365 exhibitors and 7724 entries. The catalogue occupies over 500 pages. The money prizes amount to something like £1000. The cattle show does not commence till next Monday.

THE POST OFFICE AND THE TELEGRAPHS.

THE text of the Telegraphs Bill has been published. The ninth clause empowers the Treasury to raise for the purposes of the Act any sum not exceeding in the whole £7,000,000 sterling, by the creation of terminable annuities for any period of years not exceeding thirty, or by the creation of Exchequer Bills, or Exchequer Bonds of three per cent capital stocks of annuities, or by all or any of these modes. The amount so raised or the stock so created is to be placed to an account at the Bank of England in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. The terminable annuities are to be consolidated with the terminable annuities created under the authority of the Act 30 and 31 Vict., c. 145, and preceding Acts, and be transferable in like manner as other terminable annuities in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The Exchequer Bills and Exchequer Bonds are to be paid off at par at any period not exceeding five years. The Three per Cent Stocks are to be consolidated in the books of the Bank of England with the capital stocks of annuities bearing the like rate of interest, the interest upon which is payable upon Jan. 5 and July 5 in each year, and are to be transferable in the books in like manner as the capital stocks of annuities with which they are consolidated, and to have the like rights and be subject to the like conditions as the said annuities. The "monopoly" clause in the bill is the fourth. By clause 5 the following exceptions to the postal monopoly are specified:—"There shall be excepted from the said exclusive privileges of the Postmaster-General all telegrams of the following



SITUATION OF THE SHORE END OF THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CREEK MINOU, NEAR BREST.

descriptions (that is to say):—Telegrams in respect of the transmission of which no charge is made, transmitted by a telegraph maintained or used solely for private use, and relating to the business or private affairs of the owner thereof. Telegrams transmitted, with the written license or consent, either special or general, of the Postmaster-General, under the hand of any officer of the Post Office, authorised for that purpose by the Postmaster-General. Telegrams transmitted by an existing telegraph company the undertaking of which shall not for the time being have been acquired by the Postmaster-General; and, for the purpose of this Act, 'an existing telegraph company' shall mean only a company which, by the seventh section of the Telegraph Act, 1868, is authorised to require the Postmaster-General, in the event therein mentioned, to purchase its undertaking. Telegrams transmitted by a railway or canal company in conformity with the provisions of the Telegraph Act, 1868, or any agreement confirmed thereby, or made or to be made in pursuance thereof." Clause 6 is the penal clause. It enacts:—"Any company, corporation, or person who transmits or aids, or is concerned in transmitting, any telegram in contravention of the exclusive privilege conferred on the Postmaster-General by this Act, or who receives, collects, or delivers any telegram in contravention of such exclusive privilege or aids, or is concerned in the receipt, collection, or delivery of such telegram in contravention of such privilege, shall, on summary conviction, be liable for every such offence to a penalty not exceeding £5; and where any person offending against this Act is a servant or person hired to do the act complained of, the master or other person employing such servant shall be subject to a like penalty.

THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE.

THERE has been another slight interruption of the communications with the Great Eastern; but, after a cessation of signals for a couple of days, communication was again renewed on Wednesday afternoon. The great ship is now on the point of completing her

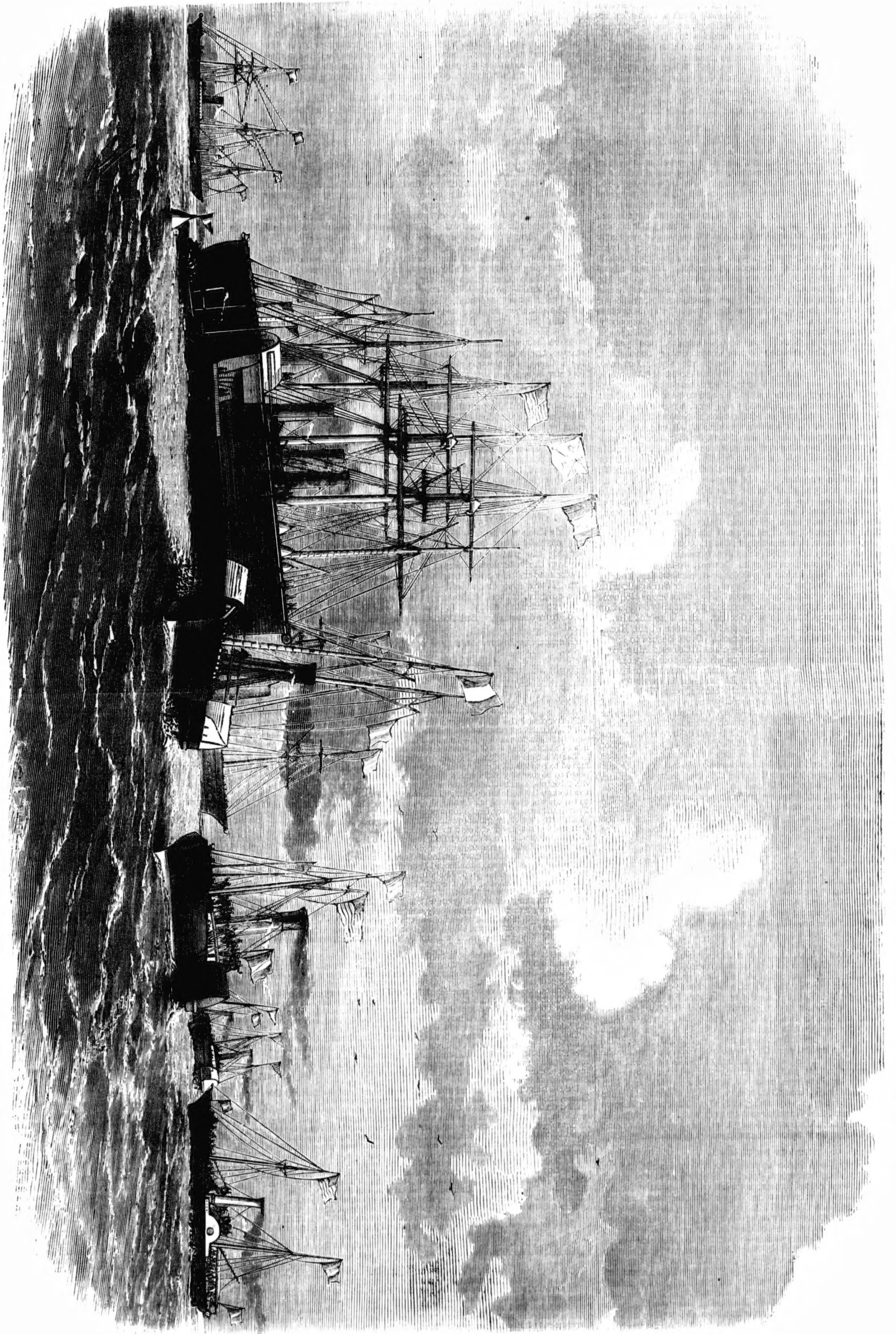
work, if she has not already done so; and the American end of the cable will probably by the time our Paper gets into the reader's hand be deposited and the splice made with the shore end. The William Cory, which started more than a week before the Great Eastern, had already laid thirty miles of shore end from the little town of St. Pierre across the southern end of Placentia Bay, and has also buoyed the exact course of the St. Pierre and Sydney Cable, so that the shore end which it has laid of the Atlantic may not interfere with it. This shore end has its seaward extremity in the south of Placentia Bay buoyed, so that what now remains to be done is a mere matter of detail, about the successful completion of which it is not too much to say that no possible doubt exists; and no more anxiety is felt about it than there would be about laying a line between Dover and Calais. The French Atlantic cable is virtually laid, and all that is wanting to complete it is to make the connection between St. Pierre and Boston, over very shallow water. It is only right to say that all connected with the expedition had the most unswerving faith in the triumphant result from the first, and no one was more confident than Sir Samuel Canning himself. Of course, no account of the voyage of the Great Eastern can reach this country in its details for some two or three weeks; but, with the exception of cutting the cable, it seems to have been uneventful enough. It must have been a very heavy gale, indeed, which compelled Sir Samuel to take such an extreme step; for cutting the cable and buoying it in very deep water represents the same amount of extremity in cable-laying as deserting the ship and taking to the boats does under other circumstances of bad weather. What increases the risk of this operation is the rapidity with which it must be done, for the vessel must be brought to a standstill; and the cable, which is in danger of parting when running out freely, has this danger multiplied a hundredfold when it has to be held tight over the stern of the ship while the buoy, ropes and buoys are made fast to it before it is cut adrift. Under these perilous circumstances, not a moment is to be lost. There is scarcely time to secure the buoy-ropes well, and on their being well secured all depends. It must have been no ordinary emergency which

made them cut the line, though the fact that it could be safely done and afterwards picked up uninjured should, on the whole, create increased confidence in the resources of a good staff and a well-found cable-ship, even when laying the longest lines in the deepest water. Another matter which also tends to give confidence is the perfect punctuality and regularity with which the Great Eastern has done her work throughout. With a chart of the Atlantic it has been quite easy to mark, at any hour of the day or night, within a mile the spot she was on, or to mark within a mile where she would be in the next twenty-four hours. The course laid down for her has never been appreciably deviated from, and the amount of slack, calculated at 14 per cent, has been expended almost to a mile.

The Great Eastern will probably remain at St. Pierre till the end of this week to put on the paddle-floats which were removed before she started, and to put out those she has in now to the full circumference of the wheels. Then, having transhipped all the staff of engineers and electricians on board the William Cory, the great ship returns at once to England, where she is expected at the end of this month, to take in the Anglo-Indian cable. In the mean time the staff, with the William Cory, will proceed to lay about 164 miles of cable from St. Pierre towards Boston. In this journey she will be accompanied by the Scanderia and the Chiltern. This length of cable will take the William Cory, over water varying in depth from 150 to 200 or 250 fathoms, past Cape Breton to the Gut of Canso. The staff will then again be transferred to the Scanderia, which will lay 450 more miles of intermediate line of extra thickness. This will stretch from the Gut of Canso to the edge of the Brown Bank, south of Cape Table, and will be laid in water of not less than 100 fathoms; the Chiltern then in turn takes the staff and lays the remainder from Brown Bank to Boston, a distance of about 150 miles, and this completes the St. Pierre and Boston section, and then all is done. Everything is expected to be completed by the end of this month, after which the whole line must remain in perfect order for thirty-one days before it is formally taken over by the French company, which then becomes solely responsible for its working and maintenance.



TEMPORARY TELEGRAPHIC STATION AT PETIT MINOU.



THE GREAT EASTERN AND ATTENDANT VESSELS AT ANCHOR OFF KINOU BEFORE STARTING TO LAY THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 360.

MISHAP.

OUR letter containing the MS. of the Inner Life of the House of Commons was posted last week on Wednesday night, at ten p.m., in the usual pillar post. It did not reach the editor till Friday, when the paper had gone to press. It was not pleasant to us, and, perhaps we may without vanity say, not pleasant to our readers, to see a number of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, whilst Parliament is sitting, without an "Inner Life" column. Such a thing, except during the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays, has never happened before since we sent No. 1 of these articles to the office. Well, we must console ourselves with the fact that three hundred and sixty of these articles have been written, nearly all of which have been sent by post, and only one has miscarried. When the MS. came back to us we felt inclined to throw it aside, as useless; but, on looking it over, we came to the conclusion that the account of Mr. Richard's arraignment of the Welsh landlords—one of the most important events of the Session—ought to appear, and so here it is.

MR. RICHARD AND WELSH LANDLORDS.

Mr. Richard, M.P. for Merthyr-Tydfil, is a Nonconformist minister, and does now (so *Debrett* tells us) actually preach at Marlborough Chapel, Kennington; and, if he preaches as well as he spoke in the House of Commons, long may he continue to preach. His congregation is to be envied. He is, we fancy, the only Dissenting minister with a charge, as the Dissenting phrase is, now in the House. We have one or two other members who were educated for the ministry, and did actually preach for a time; but they have either ceased to be ministers or are at least unattached. Preachers, Established or otherwise, lay or regularly ordained, are seldom effective speakers; there is generally a taint of the pulpit about their manner, style, and phraseology which is to a House of Commons audience intolerable. It was therefore not without misgiving that we set ourselves to listen to Mr. Richard. Will he be able to throw off the Little Bethel style and manner? said we, mutely; if not, he is a lost man. But, whatever misgivings we had, in a few minutes Mr. Richard dispelled them all. He spoke from the first bravely, vigorously, eloquently, without a taint of the conventicle in manner, tone, or language. He has only been in the House a few months, and yet he spoke as if to the manner born; nay, better than that, for he not only kept clear of the pulpit style, but also of the conventional tone and manner of the House of Commons, which, if we were not so used to it, would be almost as unpleasant. In short, he just spoke naturally; and to be able to do that is here and everywhere, and always has been, a rare accomplishment. His perfect ease and self-possession were something really remarkable. This was his maiden speech; at all events, he had never spoken at any length in the House before; and yet many who have often spoken there must have envied the honourable member's coolness and self-possession. How are we to account for this? Well, in the first place, Mr. Richard is, as we have learned, a practised public speaker. He is the secretary of the Peace Society, and on many a platform he has advocated and defended his peace principles. He is, too—though he is not a member of either of our famous Universities—evidently a cultured man; and he has, what many highly-cultured men never can obtain, the gift, natural or acquired, of uttering good, plain, vigorous English. Then, again, he was on this occasion, as, doubtless, he always is when he speaks, thoroughly in earnest; and there is much in that, readers, as you will see, if you reflect upon it. Indeed, we long since came to the conclusion that, unless a speaker be in earnest, inspired by sincerity, speaks what he really believes, he never can speak with effect. Gladstone is an eloquent orator. No orator more eloquent has appeared in the House for half a century; but it is only when he is really in earnest that he is effective. But is he not always in earnest? you will say. Certainly not. A leader of the House of Commons cannot always be in earnest. Often he has to speak at length upon subjects about which he cares little or nothing; not unfrequently has to vindicate a policy in which he does not entirely believe, and to defend the conduct of colleagues which in his heart he cannot wholly approve. But Mr. Richard was in earnest. He knows Wales well. He is, as he told the House, pure Welsh. For many years he has had to watch painfully the sore oppression of his people by their landlords, and often with pen and voice he has denounced them, but with not much effect. The oppressors probably never read his writings, and certainly never heard his speeches. It is probable, indeed, that few of them ever heard of Mr. Richard, for in Wales the landlords belong mostly to the Established Church, and in Wales between the Church and Dissent there is a great gulf, almost impassable. But now he is here, in the British House of Commons, the highest court of appeal in the land, confronting and arraigning these landlords for their oppression; conscious, too, that he was not merely addressing the audience before him, but all Wales—the oppressors and the oppressed. Is it wonderful, then, that the honourable member spoke as if inspired, as he did? "Wales, real Wales," as one has said, "had hitherto been dumb; but now, through Mr. Richard, it at last has become vocal." It was to our mind, readers, a great scene that we had before us that night—this despised Nonconformist parson standing up in the House of Commons earnestly impeaching the oppressors of his people, many of them actually before him, wincing under his accusations and cowering under his indignant denunciations of their conduct. Of course the landlords had to do something to mitigate the effect of this speaker; but they made a sorry fight. Verily, the Welsh landlords never had such a dressing as they got that night, and by a Dissenting parson! Ah! Gentlemen, little did you think, when you followed your leader and took, with him, that leap in the dark, where you should land! The great Sir Watkin William Wynn was there. He sat exactly opposite Mr. Richard, and was not at all comfortable, as we could see, under the severe pounding which the hon. member inflicted upon the Welsh landlords. In the course of the debate, he heaved up his tremendous frame and spoke, but only a few disjointed sentences. Sir Watkin is a sportsman, and little else. He can go across the country as few men can. He can make the woods ring again with his jolly "Harkaway!" His vote is always at the command of his party when it is wanted; but at public speaking, here or elsewhere, many a schoolboy would beat him hollow. If it be really true that, whilst talking is silvery, silence is golden, Sir Watkin is very rich; and if a still tongue always makes a wise head, Sir Watkin must be very wise. It is right, in parting with the hon. Baronet, to say that, amongst the tyrant landlords in Wales, he is by no means the most tyrannous.

STRANGE UTTERANCES.

The University Tests Bill was lately before the House, and we had thereon a short vigorous debate. This debate was much abridged in the morning papers, as most of the debates in the Lower House have been whilst the Upper Chamber was mending or mangle the Irish Church Bill. It was a pity that this particular debate was not more fully reported, for there were some things in it well worthy of notice—things new, and strange, and startling, one would think, to Conservatism—especially to Conservatism of the ecclesiastical type—and to English Dissenters and Scotch Presbyterians not a little alarming. Thus Dr. Lyon Playfair told us that when he became a University Professor in Scotland he must have taken a test; but he had no recollection of the fact, and had never allowed it to influence his teaching. This he said in opposition to a test which Sir Roundell Palmer—who, good, honest, clear-headed man as he is, has not been able to free himself entirely from his old ecclesiastical clothes, but has still some rags of them hanging about him—wished to enforce upon the Oxford and Cambridge Professors: a promise and vow that they will not teach anything contrary to Holy Scripture. "What is the use of such a test?" asked the Professor. "Some years ago it was the common belief that the world was created in six days, of twenty-four hours each; and who was it who gave the death-blow to that dogma? It was Dr. Buckland,

an Oxford Professor, who had subscribed the test." This was bold language, and unprecedented in the House of Commons. And mark the simplicity and the naïveté of the learned Doctor. "Death-blow to that dogma!" Why, Doctor, do you really think that nobody now believes "that dogma?" But, after all, was this simplicity? We half suspect that there was in this speech more of cynicism than simplicity. But Mr. Sartoris said something still more startling; for, jumping up from his seat behind the Government, he blurted out this strange idea, "God gave us the Gospel, and the devil invented theology!" Yes, readers, this was actually said in the House of Commons. What does it all portend? Satan invent theology! And Mr. Sartoris is member for a county in Wales, where nine tenths of the people are theologians. There are no people in the world so given to theology as the Welsh; not even the Scotch, whatever people may believe to the contrary.

MR. LAYARD CRIES PECCAVI.

New brooms sweep clean, says the adage. Our new Parliament is zealously and earnestly trying to prove the truth of the saying, but, unhappily, with little success. It has, though, lately done something on report of Supply. On Thursday night last week, when the vote of £34,036 for the Houses of Parliament came to be reported, Mr. Layard was compelled to reduce the sum to £28,536. But the economists achieved a greater triumph than this. Mr. Layard, in his impulsive, headstrong zeal to improve the Central Hall, which, to our mind, needs no improvement, except the removal from the stonework of the coat of drab-coloured paint with which it was covered some years ago by order of Sir Benjamin Hall, entered into a contract with an architect to erect a lantern tower on the roof and to ornament the walls with mosaics. This he did of his own mere notion, without asking the consent of Parliament, or, indeed, of the Treasury, as he ought, according to the standing orders of the House, to have done. When the vote came before Committee of the House this irregularity was not noticed—probably it was not discovered; but, when the vote was reported, Mr. Hunt, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, rose and called attention to this breach of the rule, this flagrant infringement upon the rights of the House; and we had a scene. Nobody but Mr. Hunt seems to have discovered the irregularity; but as soon as the hare was started, there were plenty of dogs to hunt it and run it down; and for a time the chase was rather exciting. Some attempt was made to draw a red herring across their path, to divert them from the scent, and for a time the attempt was successful. Instead of discussing the breach of the orders, the House got into a talk about the lantern and the proposed substitution of mosaics for frescoes. But the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, like a skilful huntsman, soon brought them back to the scent, as by the winding of a horn. "This," said he, rising again, "is not a question of mosaics or frescoes, but a much more important question between the House and a department of the Government." Truly, we know what the lantern and mosaics will cost; but if the House allows the heads of departments to enter into contracts without its consent we know not what ills may come.

"It will be recorded for a precedent;
And many an error, by the same example,
Will rush into the State."

To this there was no answer. Our Chief Commissioner of Works was cleverly run down; but, instead of standing at bay and defying his pursuers, he penitentially confessed he was wrong, gave up the vote, and promised that he would sin no more. Some of our readers may think that this was a small affair; but it was not. It was stopping a leak—or, to use a perhaps more appropriate figure, it was tightening the curb of a too-spirited horse given to running away. It was very mortifying to Mr. Layard to be thus censured. But this chastening will do him a world of good.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The report of the Irish Church Bill as amended was considered; and Lord CAIRNS proposed to restore the date originally named for disestablishment to take effect—i.e., Jan. 1, 1871; but, on the suggestion of Lord CAIRNS, May 1, 1871, was inserted in lieu of Jan. 1, 1872.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, on reaching the twenty-eighth clause, moved to restore all the terms of payment which the bill originally proposed to be made by the Church Body for ecclesiastical residences, glebes, &c.; contending that, after having refused to vote advances for glebes for the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian clergy, their Lordships were bound to restore the clause to its former shape. In its altered form it revived Protestant ascendancy in the most baleful manner, and was utterly opposed to the principle of religious equality. The Government and the House of Commons could never consent to the clause; and for their Lordships to insist upon it would end either in the loss of the bill or a collision with the Commons and the country.

The Marquis of SALISBURY reminded Lord Clanricarde that the giving of glebes to the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian, as well as the Episcopal clergy, was the original proposal of Mr. Bright, and had been endorsed by Mr. Gladstone; and he held that it was not unfair to allow the Irish Church to retain its own glebes.

Lord GREY urged that the whole value of the bill would be destroyed if glebes were given to one religion only, and that without any payment. Lord CAIRNS cited the declarations of the Premier on this subject prior to the general election, and said he did not believe the country ever supposed that the Irish Church was to be deprived of its churches and residences.

Lord GRANVILLE was of opinion that the retention of residences would be the most obvious sign of inequality. As to the declarations of Mr. Gladstone, his right hon. friend had carefully guarded himself against precise pledges on details.

Concurrence in the view enunciated by Lord Grey was expressed by the Duke of CLEVELAND; and Earl RUSSELL remarked that he did not despair of their Lordships reconsidering their decision as to Roman Catholic and Presbyterian glebes on the third reading. The House divided, and rejected the amendment of Lord Clanricarde by 91 to 56.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY, on clause 29, referring to the offer made in Committee by Lord GRANVILLE, on behalf of the Government, to give £500,000 to the disestablished Church, in lieu of all private endowments, said he regarded it as a fair proposal, and that it might be accepted instead of carrying back the date of the endowments to be vested in the Church to the year 1560.

Lord GRANVILLE intimated that, as the offer had been declined by the House, the Government did not feel at liberty now to renew it.

Lord CAIRNS observed that, when Mr. Gladstone first proposed to disestablish the Irish Church, it was with the condition that it should keep its churches, revenues, and property to the value of two fifths, and he then appealed to the country to decide upon the fairness of the proposal. The idea of complete disendowment, therefore, had never been presented to, or contemplated by, the country.

The Marquis of SALISBURY expressed himself in a similar sense. The LORD CHANCELLOR explained that the Ministerial offer included not only all the private benefactions, but the Ulster glebes. Lord GRANVILLE repeated the offer, but it was on the understanding that the Ulster glebes were included. The PRIMATE here submitted a clause which authorised the Church Commissioners to pay £500,000 on May 1, 1871, in lieu of the private benefactions; which, however, Lord GRANVILLE declined to accept, unless upon the conditions he had just announced. Subsequently, the question was put, and the clause of the Archbishop was agreed to. The bill was then reported, Lord CLANICARTY having given notice that on the third reading he should move the rejection of the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN ROUMANIA.

Mr. OTWAY, replying to a question of Mr. Alderman Salomons, confirmed the reports of fresh outrages committed upon the Jews in the Danubian Principalities, and said that the British Government continued to co-operate with the representatives of the great Powers in urging upon the Government of Roumania the adoption of preventive measures.

BANKRUPTCY BILL, ETC.

The Insolvent Debtors and Bankruptcy Repeal Bill was passed through Committee; and the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill was recommitted, and clauses to 89 inclusively agreed to.

MR. MURPHY.

Mr. NEWDEGATE gave notice that he intended to call the attention of the House to the action of the Government, as represented by the Home Office, in preventing Mr. Murphy from holding free assemblies for the dis-

cussion of lawful topics, and asked the Secretary of State to give him facilities for doing so.

Mr. BRUCE replied that, although the Government would at all times be ready to meet any charge that might be made against them, the pressure of business was so great that it was impossible for them, with the limited remains of the Session at their disposal, to grant his hon. friend the facilities he required. He thought, however, there would be no difficulty, on the order of supply, in his bringing forward a motion of this kind.

RUSSIA AND INDIA.

Mr. EASTWICK next called attention to the position of affairs in Central Asia, the advance of Russia in the direction of our Indian frontier, and the state of our relations with the Ameer of Cabul.

MONDAY, JULY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE rose to move the third reading of the Irish Church Bill, and was followed by Lord CLANICARTY, who moved the rejection of the measure, "for Protestant reasons," in a speech of considerable length.

Lord Lurgan, the Earl of Derby, Lord Lyttelton, the Earl of Leiftrim, and the Bishop of Tuam followed. Lord CLANICARTY's motion was eventually withdrawn.

The House then proceeded to consider the Earl of Devon's amendment, to reverse a previous decision of the House by which the Irish Bishops were qualified for the rest of their lives to retain their seats in the House. The amendment was opposed by Lord Redesdale, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Cairns; and supported by Lord Penzance, Earl De Grey and Ripon, the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Lord Chancellor. On a division, the title of the Bishops to retain their seats was cancelled by a vote of 108 to 82.

The whole question of concurrent endowment was next raised by a motion of Earl STANHOPE to give residences and glebes to Roman Catholic and Presbyterian ministers on the same terms as to the Episcopalian clergy. The noble Earl justified his motion on the ground that it would be acceptable to the Irish people and would produce real religious equality. Lord HOUGHTON and the Duke of SOMERSET supported the amendment. The Earl of KIMBERLEY denied that concurrent endowment was desired by either the Roman Catholics or the Protestant Dissenters, and, moreover, England and Scotland had pronounced distinctly against it. Lord GRANARD protested against the scheme, which, however, found a supporter in Lord DUNRAVEN and strenuous advocates in Earl RUSSELL and Lord WESTBURY, the latter of whom maintained that the mind of the country was not properly informed on the subject of concurrent endowment. Earl GRANVILLE protested emphatically against the amendment, and received on this point the concurrence of Lord CAIRNS, who declared that the scheme proposed by Earl Stanhope was unmanageable. After a few words from the Earl of DENBIGH, who accepted the amendment, the House divided, and adopted the motion by 121 Contents to 114 Non-contents.

The other changes made in the bill were of no material importance; and, with only a few feeble cries of "Non-content," the bill was allowed to pass the third reading.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NITRO-GLYCERINE.

Mr. Secretary BRUCE, replying to a question of Alderman Lawrence, stated that, so far as he could learn, there had been no breach of the legal regulations in the conveyance of the nitro-glycerine which lately exploded near Carnarvon. He had directed an inquiry to be made by its competent authority whether it was possible to deprive this spirit of its explosive qualities so that its transit might be conducted with safety; and if there were means of doing that it was absolutely essential that they should be adopted; but if there were not, then he should say that its conveyance ought to be prohibited.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Mr. OTWAY informed Mr. Gourley that no negotiations had been entered into with either the Sultan or the Egyptian Viceroy relative to the navigation of the Suez Canal by vessels of the British naval and mercantile marine; but as the opening of the canal was of deep interest and importance to many nations, and to none more than this, it was impossible to say that no negotiations would take place on the subject.

OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

Mr. OTWAY also stated, in answer to Mr. Hermon, that no communication had been addressed to the French Government respecting the duties levied in France on English cotton manufactures, whilst French cottons were admitted here free of duty, and reminded the hon. gentleman that the duties under which these articles entered each country respectively were fixed by the commercial treaty.

Mr. BRIGHT told Mr. Blake, who asked whether English vessels were at present dredging for oysters within the limits prohibited from June 16 to Aug. 31, by article 11 of the fishing convention with the Emperor of the French, that the convention was not yet in operation, and would not be until a day fixed by the French Government. No recent complaint had been made respecting the violation of the existing convention agreed to in 1839.

SUPPLY.

The order for going into Committee on the Trades Union Bill of Mr. T. Hughes was discharged, and the bill withdrawn. Subsequently, and after a brief discussion on the proposed expenditure for the new public offices, and on the employment in the diplomatic service of unpaid attaches, the House went into Committee of Supply, and agreed to numerous votes for the civil service.

TUESDAY, JULY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Marquis TOWNSHEND moved the second reading of the Education of Children Bill, which was negatived after Earl De Grey and Ripon had said a few words as to the inexpediency of dealing with so important a question piecemeal.

The Infant Life Preservation Bill, another measure introduced by Marquis Townshend, was withdrawn after a short discussion.

The Bishops Resignation Bill was read the second time, on the motion of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY.

The Assessed Rates and one or two other bills were also read the second time.

Motions for returns of purchases made by the National Gallery and of cases tried in the Court of Arches were agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (CATTLE) BILL.

The morning sitting was mainly devoted to the further consideration in Committee of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill. On clause 90, at which progress was resumed, Sir C. B. ADDERLEY moved an amendment to the effect that the surplus, or any part thereof, remaining of the fund raised by local rates under the Cattle Plague Act of 29th and 30th Vict. (Feb. 20, 1866) might be applied in compensation for cattle slaughtered between the passing of that measure and the appointment of inspectors under its provisions, by the direction of any person whom the owners of such cattle had reasonable ground to believe to be the authorised inspector for the execution of the Act. The motion led to some discussion, followed by a division, which resulted in its being agreed to, against the Government, by 97 to 80. Numerous verbal amendments and some new clauses were introduced; and, finally, the bill, having passed through Committee, was ordered, amid cheers, to be reported, with amendments, to the House.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

After the Valuation of Property (Metropolis) Bill had passed through Committee, the Insolvent Debtors and Bankruptcy Repeal Bill was read the third time and passed.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

Colonel SYKES, at the evening sitting, called the attention of the House to our relations with China, in reference to the revision of the Treaty of Tien-Tsin, and moved for copies of papers, with a view to prove that the Chinese Government was too weak to provide for the security of life and property in that empire.

Mr. LIDDELL, in seconding the motion, recommended her Majesty's Government to follow the example of the United States, by pursuing a policy of conciliation, prudence, and moderation.

Mr. OTWAY objected to treating the Chinese as barbarians outside the pale of civilisation. He showed, moreover, that there was no necessity for arbitrary measures in our dealings with China, as our relations with the country were steadily improving.

The motion was withdrawn.

THE HOUSE TAX.

Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE introduced a motion for the abolition of the house tax, which was seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed it, on the ground that the tax was for the most part proportioned to the means of occupiers, and that it was a tax on landlords rather than tenants.

The motion was withdrawn.

TRADES UNIONS.

Mr. BRUCE introduced a bill to protect the funds of trades unions.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS BILL.

Mr. L. KING, in moving the second reading of this measure, described it as one which would affect the descent of small properties much more than that of large ones, and recommended it to the House as an attempt to do justice to the younger children of persons who died in possession of real estate without having made a will.

Mr. B. HOPE, who proposed the rejection of the bill, agreed with its author that its effect would be upon small rather than large estates, and

he founded his opposition mainly upon the contention that by necessitating the sale of the estates of persons dying intestate it would practically cause the extinction of small estates, and would therefore have a tendency to throw the land of the country more and more into the hands of large proprietors.

Mr. Dickinson, Mr. W. Fowler, and Mr. L. Gower supported, while Mr. G. Gregory and Mr. Goldney opposed the bill, upon grounds similar to those advanced by their predecessors in debate.

Mr. C. BUXTON, extending the area of the discussion, put forward as one of the reasons for which he desired to see this change of the law that it would have a tendency to subvert the existing habits of thought as to the descent of landed estates, and to lead to their division among different members of the family, rather than the transmission of the whole property to the eldest son.

Mr. O. MORGAN, while supporting this bill, pointedly referred to the anomalies of the existing system, and described the absurdity of dealing differently with estates held in fee and those held for 1000 years.

Dr. BALL could not consent to alter the system of descent at present established by law; but suggested that the more prominent defects of that system might be met by a provision that whenever an estate descended to an eldest son in consequence of the intestacy of his father it should by law be charged with life-rents for the benefit of the widow and of the other children.

Mr. J. H. PALMER admitted that the adoption of such a scheme would mitigate the evils which are worked by the law as it now stands; but expressed a confident opinion that it would be impossible to carry it into practice.

Mr. HENLEY objected to the bill very much for the same reasons as those advanced by Mr. Hope, and declared that if it were passed it would be the death blow of the 40s. freeholders, whose existence he was most anxious to preserve.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL admitted that there was in this bill some faults of detail; but, regarding it as a step, though only a small step, in the right direction, he recommended the House to read it the second time, in order that the faults might be cured in Committee.

When the House divided, the second reading was carried by a majority of 25—169 to 144, a result which was hailed with loud cheers.

THURSDAY, JULY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on this bill, the Duke of RICHMOND impressed upon the Government the advisability of excluding Christ's Hospital from the operation of the Act. The tenth clause gave the three Commissioners the extraordinary powers of annihilating the government of Christ's Hospital. It was these extensive powers that were the source of his apprehensions as to the safety of the establishment of Christ's Hospital. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE concurred in the appeal to exempt Christ's Hospital from the operation of the Act. The House then went into Committee upon this bill, and the consideration of its clauses occupied the attention of their Lordships for the remainder of the sitting.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—CONSIDERATION OF THE LORDS' AMENDMENTS.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that he should avoid making any statement as to the character of the amendments which might be made the occasion for debate, but would simply state the course he should advise the House to pursue. First, with regard to the alteration made in the preamble, he should move that it be disagreed with and the original words replaced. Secondly, with regard to the date at which the bill was to come into operation, he should move that the amendment be disagreed with and the original date restored. With regard to the annuities to the curates, he should move that the amendment be disagreed with, and that a substitute be inserted containing modifications of the original words. As regarded the fourth amendment, which refers to the tax on ecclesiastical incomes to be handed over to the Church body, he should move that it be disagreed with. With regard to the fifth, which was for protection to the annuitants, he should be disposed to advise the House to agree to it, with amendments. The sixth, which related to what was commonly called the fourteen-years' clause, or the commutation clause, he should disagree to it and propose an amendment, the nature of which he would communicate to the House in a short time. The seventh, which relates to glebe-houses and removes conditions with respect to payment for them, he should disagree to. The eighth, respecting what are commonly called the Ulster glebes or the Royal grants, he should disagree to. The ninth, which relates to the deduction of poor-rates from the price of the tithe rent-charge, he should disagree to. The tenth, which relates to the residuary property, he should disagree to. As regarded the amendment referring to concurrent endowment, he should move to strike it out.

Mr. DISRAELI said he had learned with some regret that the right hon. gentleman proposed to advise the House, generally speaking, entirely to disagree with the amendments proposed by the other House. There might be differences between the two Houses, but none which could justify the position to each other being described as of a hostile character. The other House could not be said to have taken up a position of defiance and antagonism. It had commenced its deliberations on the subject with a testimony on their part of a desire for conciliation. They had accepted the principle of the measure, although they disagreed with that principle. He himself attributed the position in which matters stood to two causes. The first was, that the right hon. gentleman had dealt with a political matter by means of abstract principles; but when he introduced his bill he detracted from those abstract principles. He (the hon. member) was of opinion that the amendments proposed by the other House were not deviations from the principle of the bill, although they might be deviations from the abstract principles which the right hon. gentleman had advocated from the hustings. The bill, too, had had but a light, although it might be an adequate, discussion in the House; and he trusted that, as they were now about to consider the amendments proposed, they would do so in a spirit of conciliation, and that the discussion upon the preamble of the bill would be such as to prevent any trespassing unduly upon the time of hon. members.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that, in his former remarks, he had not absolutely indicated the precise intentions of the Government with regard to the mode of dealing with the subject of the Ulster glebes. They would disagree to it, but would preface that disagreement by agreeing to a sum of £500,000 being given in place of private endowments. He moved that the Lords' amendments to the preamble be disagreed with. The scheme now proposed was something far different to the plan which Mr. Pitt had in view, who contemplated the endowment of a Roman Catholic Church side by side with the Established Church, and its being endowed by and under the control of the State. The amendment was wholly opposed to the character and principles of the bill, and was of such a character that it was entirely in opposition to the feelings of the time and the country. He contended that the experience of the last elections and the expressed opinion of the country were entirely against the principle of concurrent endowment. The pledges given by hon. members on that side of the House were sufficient to show the opinion of themselves and their constituents in the matter. It would be remembered that power was given to the Government by an Order in Council, and, in order that the House should have power, he should move a proviso that no such order could be put in force until it had been considered by both Houses, and that such order should not be valid unless a period of fourteen days had elapsed from such consideration, without an address being presented to her Majesty praying her to revoke such order. He begged to move the rejection of the amendment of the House of Lords in the preamble.

Sir G. GREY was in favour of concurrent endowment, but there were inconveniences in the way in which the House were called upon to discuss the question.

Mr. GLADSTONE would divide the amendment and move the insertion of words in the preamble which precluded concurrent endowment.

After a discussion the House divided—For disagreeing with the Lords' amendments, 246; for agreeing, 222: majority for Government, 124.

Mr. GLADSTONE then moved the restoration of the remainder of the words struck out of the preamble—For Mr. Gladstone's motion, 246; against, 164: majority for Mr. Gladstone, 82.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved that the date at which the bill was to come into operation be the same as sent to the Lords. "Jan. 1, 1871," was restored.

The Lords' amendment with respect to the powers of the Commissioners, subject to the refusal to agree to the Lords' amendment as first decided, was agreed to.

On clause 14, Mr. GLADSTONE moved to disallow the Lords' amendment so far as the calculation of life interests was concerned, as they would give the Church £500,000 more, and diminish the surplus to the same extent. This was agreed to without a division.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved to strike out the clause inserted by the Lords to provide for the payment of disabled archbishops, bishops, &c. The clause was struck out.

Mr. GLADSTONE on clause 15 proposed to accept the Lords' amendment with the exception of the proviso for the annuities of disabled curates, on which the House divided, and Mr. Gladstone carried his amendment by 277 to 181. Mr. Gladstone suggested some further alterations, and the clause was then agreed to.

PAUPERISM AND EMIGRATION formed the subject of an adjourned conference of metropolitan guardians, magistrates, and others, at the Westminster Sessions House on Wednesday. Lord Alfred Churchill presided. The chief subject of discussion was the propriety of levying a rate in London to assist in the emigration of the needy and unemployed. The prevailing opinion appeared, however, to be opposed to this course.

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VOLUNTEER LEGISLATION.

IT is scarcely worth while to notice, except in the ordinary Parliamentary record, where such things take their places as a matter of course, attempts at legislation like those of the good-natured Marquis Townshend. Benevolent people are usually on good terms with themselves, and there is something almost childlike in the simplicity of the man who could, as the Marquis did on Tuesday evening, introduce a bill into the House of which he is a member which, while intended to strike a blow at ill-intentioned baby-farming, would, by its phraseology, have made it unlawful for a mother to nurse her own child, or a workhouse matron to tend an orphan babe, without a special license from a magistrate.

This is a mere joke. But some of the notions of the principles and policy of legislation prevalent among volunteers and outsiders are very odd, even in quarters where we may presume the persons concerned would know how to phrase the clauses of a bill. High-class newspapers have lately contained a curious advertisement purporting to come from some association for promoting the legalisation of divorce for desertion alone. The advertisement frankly stated that the notion was to get the bill passed this Session, if possible! Anything more absurd could scarcely be conceived; and if it would be well to permit divorce for desertion (as, after four years of absence, is the case under the Scotch law), one hopes that the cause may not fall into the hands of volunteers of this stamp. In the first place, the least symptom of haste in a matter of this kind is the worst possible policy, because it lays itself open to the charge of motives of personal passion which is usually urged against the promoters of measures which have an object like that contemplated by these advertising gentlemen. But what sort of notion of the probable hindrances to the passing of such a bill could there have been in their minds? The Session is a crowded one, and the Irish Church Bill stops the way. Measures about the value of which there is scarcely any difference of opinion are postponed because it would be impossible to introduce them effectively this year; for example, a measure for regulating the licensing system applicable to intoxicating drinks. Where, too, could a measure for making desertion a sufficient cause for granting a divorce look for support in the House of Commons? Mr. Gladstone and the Solicitor-General would oppose it upon principle. So would scores of other members; while the immense majority would oppose it upon grounds of expediency. If—to put an insane hypothesis—a bill like that were to pass the third reading in the Lower House, it would be ignominiously kicked out in the Upper. There is not a bishop who would vote for it; and we cannot think of a single peer concerning whose hostility even a doubt can be raised. Some people might suggest Lord Westbury, but we do not believe he would now defend a bill of the kind. In fact, there was not the faintest chance of getting the question fairly discussed, to say nothing of passing a bill; and yet those sanguine volunteers talked of carrying a bill, if possible, this Session! Even—to put again the insane hypothesis—if there were a possibility of getting a bill of some kind passed, a serious question for the promoters should be, What kind of bill? It would be very possible for the enemies of the principle of the measure to pass it in a form which would enact a remedy that would be worse than the disease. Any one who will study the numerous division lists in the Committee upon whose recommendations the present law of divorce was framed, will note how pertinacious were the attempts made to frame the report in such terms that, if it had been acted upon in passing the measure, the bill would have assumed a very different shape, and retained a large share of the old leaven of the canon law. It is, in fact, easy for the opponents of a law of this kind to get inserted provisions and restrictions which shall have the precise effect of making it, judged from the point of view of its promoters, a retrograde measure. If any considerable number of thoughtful and well-meaning persons are of opinion that the Scotch law upon the subject is right in principle (along with the Jewish practice upon the same point), their first step must be to instruct public opinion. They may plausibly contend that in England the public know nothing of the working of the law upon these matters in America and Germany, all we get being an occasional frantic story from the outskirts of Western civilisation, or a bit of one-sided testimony from a man like Dr. Pusey. But assuredly, if their cause were the best in the world, it would only be made ridiculous by steps like the advertisement of which we have spoken.

Another attempt at volunteer legislation, made by

Alderman Lawrence in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening, deserves to be spoken of with very great respect. The hon. gentleman assailed the house tax, in its present form, and made out a plausible *prima facie* case against it, at least as it now stands. He contended that the tax fell, in hard fact, upon the occupiers rather than the owners, and that it tended directly to keep down the character of the houses built for the poor. In spite of the use Mr. Lawrence made of an opinion expressed by Mr. Gladstone against the tax in its existing shape, Mr. Lowe threw cold water upon the proposal made for condemning the tax, and the hon. member had to withdraw his motion. It was certainly not likely to come to anything this Session; but the subject is now started, and it can be reintroduced hereafter. There is much to be said on both sides; but about the tendency of the hard-and-fast line of exemption at £20 there can be no doubt whatever.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has deputed her Royal Highness Princess Louisa to lay, in her Majesty's name, the foundation-stone of the second pair of buildings of the National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor, Undercliff, Isle of Wight, on Wednesday, the 28th inst.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to unveil the statue of Mr. George Peabody, on the site near the Royal Exchange, during the present month. The statue, which is in bronze, is the work of Mr. Stary, the American sculptor.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON on Saturday consecrated a new church at Brompton. It is dedicated to St. Matthias, and is designed for a new district which has been assigned to it by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The Rev. S. C. Haines, who has served one or two incumbencies in Canada, will be the first Vicar. The church is at present unoccupied.

LORD JUSTICE SELWYN has been absent from the sittings of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council several days, on account of severe illness. It was reported on Monday that his Lordship was dead, but on inquiry it was ascertained that he was progressing favourably.

MR. BRIGHT AND MR. FORSTER have withdrawn their resignations from the Reform Club, in compliance with the desire of the committee, who, at their meeting on Friday, the 2nd, refused to sanction the minutes in which the hostile vote had been recorded, and thus virtually undid the offensive act of a very small section of that body.

THE MARRIAGE OF LORD HUNTLY, the premier Marquis of Scotland, with Amy, eldest daughter of Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, of Manchester, was solemnised, on Wednesday, in Westminster Abbey. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince and Princess Teck were present at the ceremony, which was performed by the Bishop of Oxford, assisted by Dean Stanley.

THE EARL OF DERRY has written a letter to Mr. Gladstone enjoining his new work on the Homeric age, entitled "Juvenis Mundi," and has expressed his astonishment at the industry which has allowed of the composition of such a work during the political turmoil of the last two years.

THE DIRECTORS of the Bradford Mechanics' Institute have resolved to invite Mr. Gladstone to lay the foundation-stone of their new institute in the autumn, and, if that invitation be accepted, Mr. T. Salt, of Crownst, will entertain the right hon. gentleman during his visit.

TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED LADIES have pledged themselves not to shop after two o'clock on Saturdays.

MR. HEPPORTH DIXON is about to leave England for a tour in Russia. It is understood that he will not return to the editorial chair of the *Athenaeum*.

THE HARVARD BOAT AND CREW, who are to contend with the English University crews, have sailed for England.

MR. SWIFT, the well-known tenor, who performed, some few years ago, at Her Majesty's Theatre and was favourably received, died last Saturday morning, at his residence, the Opera-arcade, Haymarket.

SEVERAL ACRES OF BARLEY, both in the eastern and western parts of Cornwall, were cut during the past week. The hay-fields are being rapidly cleared. As a rule, the crop is very good.

MESSRS. BEYFUS AND CO. are anxious to have it known that they did not charge the Duke of Newcastle quite 30 per cent upon the sum of £10,275 which they advanced to his Grace in cash.

THE POTATO DISEASE has, it is said, made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Devizes.

THE GREENWICH HOSPITAL PENSION of £50 a year, vacant by the death of Mr. B. Wickham, paymaster-in-chief, on June 22, has been granted from that date to William H. Norman, paymaster.

CAPTAIN THOMAS LAMBERT, of Castle Lambert, in the county of Galway, was fired at on Sunday night, within a few yards of his own house. Five shots were discharged at him from a revolver, and several took effect, wounding him in the stomach and head. Hopes are, however, entertained of his recovery. A man who was apprehended on suspicion of being the assassin has been fully identified by Captain Lambert.

A CARILLON OF FORTY-THREE BELLS was consecrated with great pomp and religious ceremony at St. Joseph's Cathedral, in Buffalo, on the 1st inst. This is the only instrument of the kind in the United States, and there are only two others in the world.

A PARTY OF SIXTY-ONE MEMBERS OF THE BERMONDSEY WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE was, last Saturday afternoon, conducted over Westminster Abbey by the Dean and Lady Augusta Stanley, and afterwards took tea at the deanery.

ANOTHER THEATRE IS TO BE BUILT IN THE STRAND. It will about equal in size the Olympic, and, it is said, will open in September, under the management of Miss Litton, of the Princess's company.

THE BRENTFORD MAGISTRATES, on Monday, sentenced a man named Frederick Adams, a labourer in the employ of Mr. John Hanson, builder, of Southall, to two months' hard labour for stealing three cabbages from his employer's garden. Adams had never been in custody before, and was said to be a sober, industrious man.

AN AERIAL MACHINE, intended to make the trip between New York and San Francisco in twenty-four hours, has been invented by a genius in the latter city, and, according to reports of its first trial-trip, it works like a charm, being propelled in any direction in the air.

MR. A. PRICE, Paymaster in the Royal Navy, has been selected by the Admiralty to visit the whole of the Royal dockyards for the purpose of revising the instructions relating to the management and duties at each establishment. Mr. Price will shortly commence his duties at Chatham Dockyard, and every facility is to be afforded him by the officials in carrying out his instructions.

WILLIAM RICHARD, an omnibus-driver, met his death on Monday in a singular manner. He was driving under an archway, when his head came violently in contact with the roof. He fell to the ground, and the wheels of the omnibus passed over him. He was conveyed to the Royal Free Hospital, where he very shortly died.

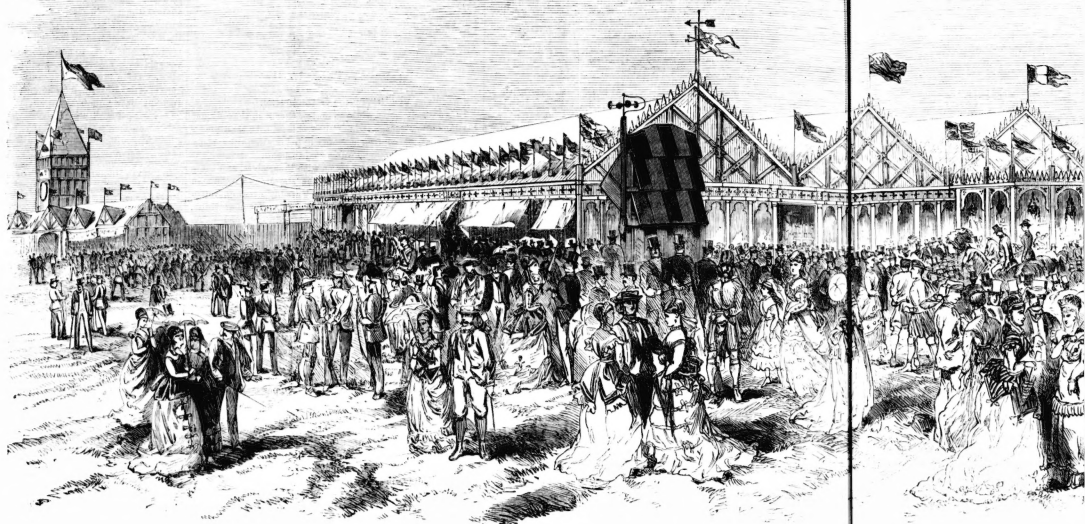
THE AMERICAN YACHT DAUNTLESS, Vice-Commodore James G. Bennett, jun., arrived at Queenstown on Sunday, at 2.30 p.m., making the run from New York to Queenstown in 12 days 17 hours 6 min. 12 sec., and beating the time of the Henrietta in her famous ocean race with the Fleetwing and Vesta. The Dauntless experienced heavy weather the entire voyage.

A FATAL ACCIDENT happened in Southampton Docks last Saturday night. Mr. Selwood, a mate of the Havre steamer Normandy, was going ashore, when he slipped off the gangway and fell between the steamer and the dock wall. He was almost immediately picked up; but he had received such severe injury in falling that he died before he could be conveyed to the infirmary.

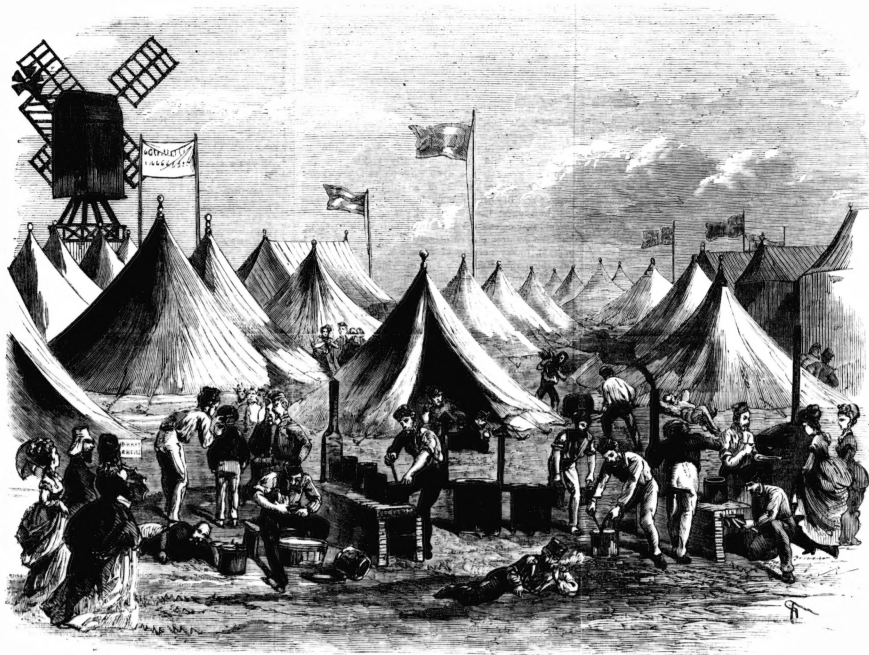
SIX GENTLEMEN WERE KNIGHTED last week by her Majesty at Windsor—Mr. William Tite, Mr. Thomas Duffus Hardy, Mr. James Meek, Mr. Peter Coats, Mr. Joseph Heron, and Mr. Richard Davis Hanson, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia. Sir Andrew Buchanan, G.C.B., had an audience of the Queen on returning to his post at St. Petersburg; and Mr. Charles Allison, C.B., Minister at the Court of Persia, had an audience of her Majesty on his return from Persia.

MR. WILLIAM GROOME, B.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, late Head Master of the Modern Department, Rossall School, has been appointed Head Master of the Bedfordshire Middle Class School, which will be opened next month. The school has been established by Earl Cowper, the Lord Lieutenant of the county; the Duke of Bedford, and other landed proprietors of the county, for the cheaper and better education of the sons of farmers and other middle-class people.

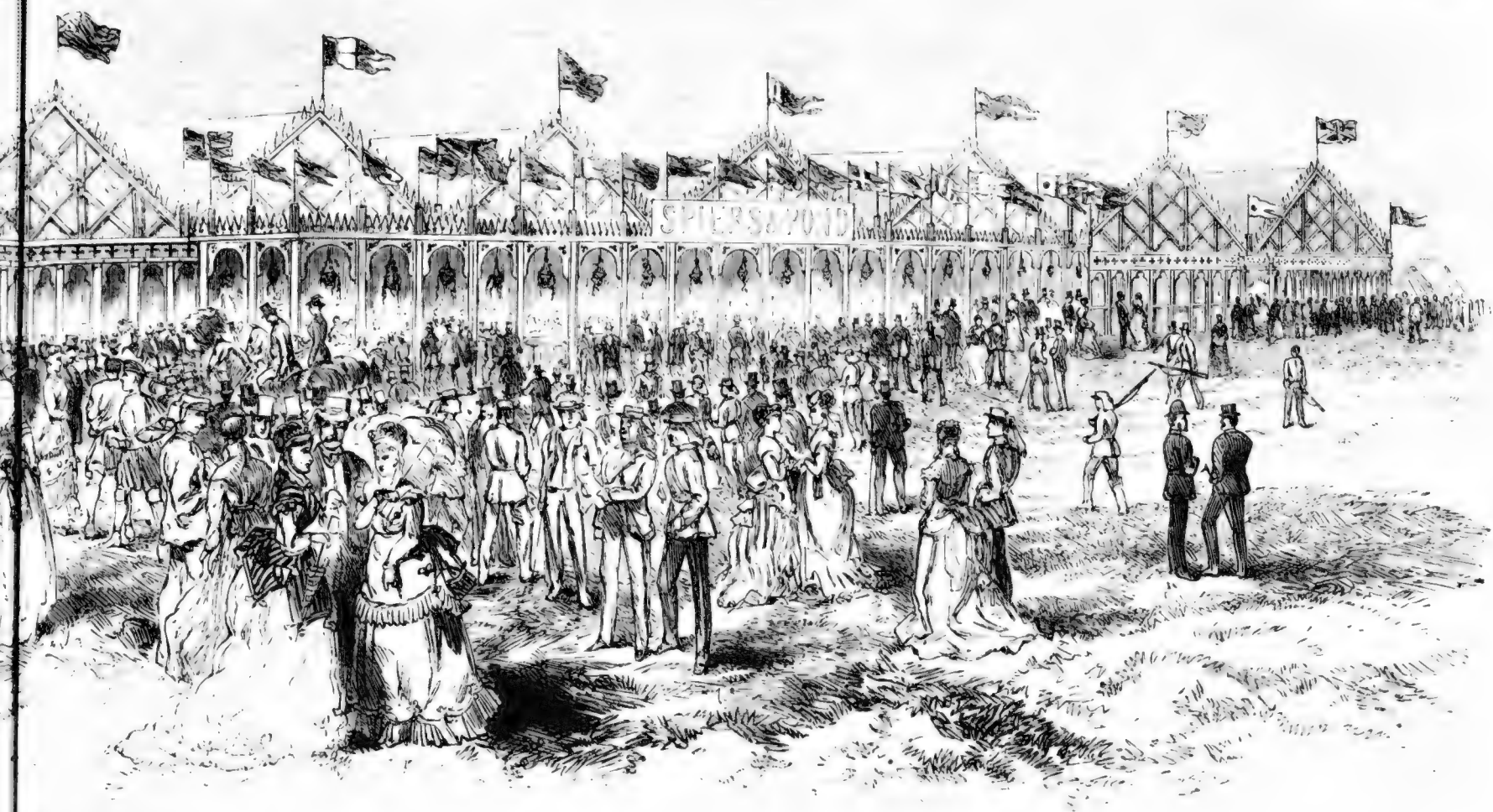
A YOUNG MAN NAMED ELDRID, a shoemaker, living at 33, Gray's-Inn-road, got out of his depth while bathing in the Serpentine on Sunday morning, and was drowned. Although there were a great many good swimmers close by, none of them seemed to be conscious of the poor fellow's danger, as no one lent him a helping hand. He had been under water upwards of eleven minutes before his body was recovered by one of the Royal Humane Society's boatmen, who about the same time rescued two other bathers who were in danger of being drowned.



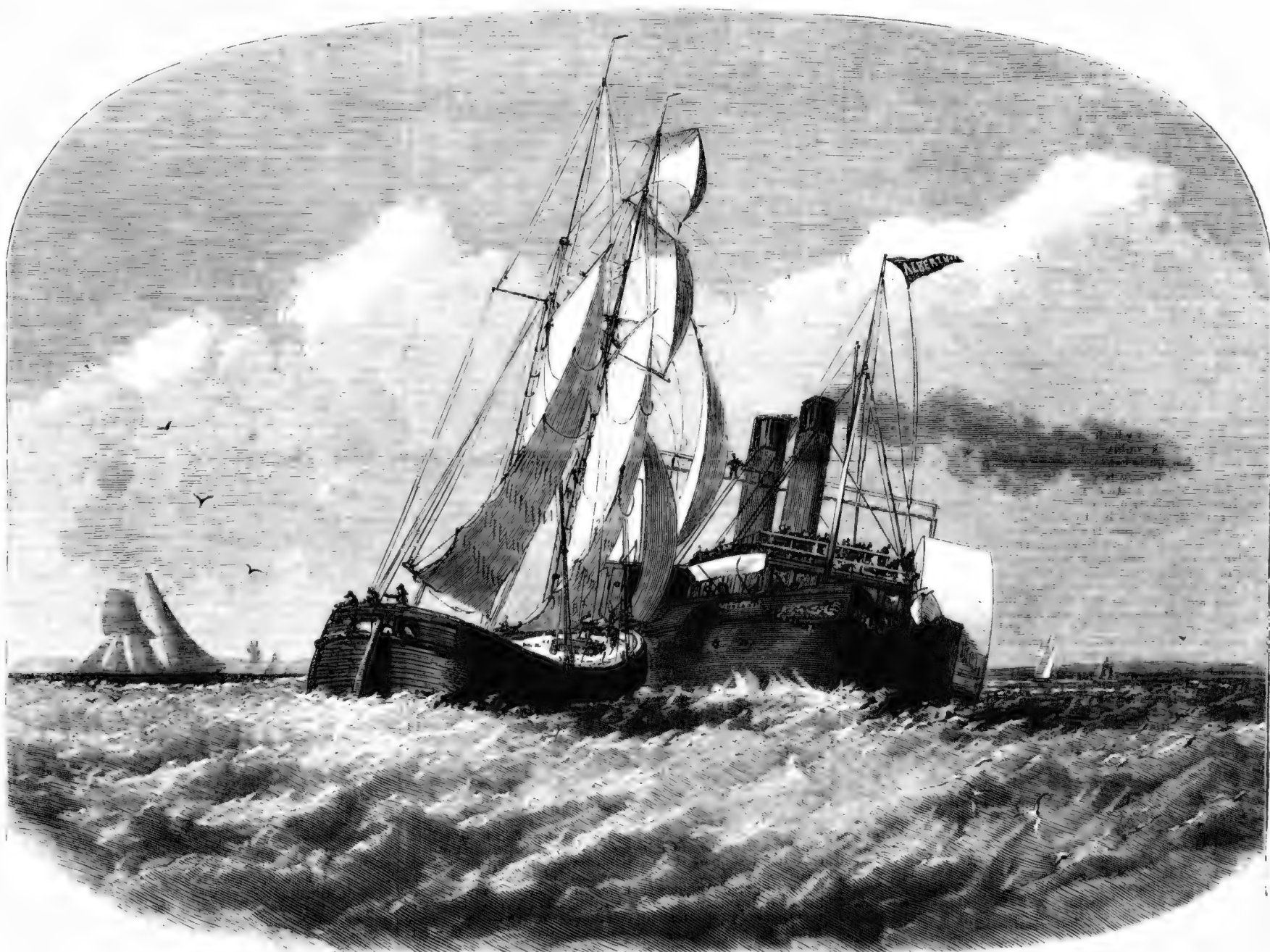
THE VOLUNTEER CAMP AT WIMBLEDON.



THE VOLUNTEERS AT WIMBLEDON: THE CAMP KITCHEN.



CAMP AT WIMBLEDON.



COLLISION BETWEEN THE SALOON STEAM-BOAT ALBERT VICTOR AND A SAILING-SCHOONER IN THE THAMES.

WIMBLEDON.

THE Wimbledon meeting of 1869—the tenth of the series—has been on the whole more pleasant than that of 1868, at least for the visitors. For the residents at Wimbledon we fear that it is never a very pleasant time, but a fortnight of unwanted clamour and intrusion. But for everyone else it has been an agreeable meeting. The weather has been bright, warm, and sunny, and during the whole of last week it was not too hot. There has been more dust than is agreeable, and if the council would accept a suggestion to water the road between Putney and the camp; or, if that may not be, the roads in the immediate vicinity of the camp, and that very dusty, trodden patch of common just outside the main entrance, they would confer a substantial boon upon residents and visitors alike, and many of the latter who now, after a day at the camp, survey ruefully their begrimed garments, and straightway abandon a half-formed intention of paying a second or third visit, might be tempted to adhere to the determination originally conceived. We notice also with regret that the number of "loafers" who hang about the entrance, and who may be said practically to take possession of one by main force, and to deposit one *bon gré mal gré* in a rickety cab, is greater than in preceding years. We have even observed the irrepressible nigger making his way with his dreadful bones and banjo from the station towards the camp. These seem to us matters of serious import. From the nigger to the thimble-rig man is only a short step, and the thimble-rig man is, we suppose, half-brother to the gentleman with the three greasy cards; and when we get to the card trick, and Aunt Sally, and to the Epson missionary, we shall have very nearly got to the end of everything that makes Wimbledon enjoyable. Then the atmosphere will have become of the turf, turfy; and we may know that it will not be long ere turf tricks and bad bets, and welchers, and all the rest of it, come into vogue. Of course there are those to whom the absence of these things affords no satisfaction; but these are not the persons for the most part who go to Wimbledon, certainly not those who enjoy it. Wimbledon has a distinctive character of its own, and that character is happily at the positive pole of attraction, while the character of a race meeting stands at the negative pole. The character of Wimbledon is sufficiently understood and appreciated by those who go there; and to those who do not go we may say that they really miss one of the pleasantest outings of the season. It is a bright, sunny, pretty spot; quiet and almost lazy, but with a number of centres of tepid excitement distributed at the different firing-points—an excitement which warms up a little when some Corporal Peake discharges a bullet through the camp. You can hardly fail to be pleased with an afternoon at Wimbledon. The pure air of the wide common, the freedom from crowd, the absence of those sights and sounds which make most other public gatherings so intolerable, the varied interest, and the general sense of healthy, honest, manly amusement, unsullied, we would fain hope, by dirty trickery and anxious faces and emptied pockets, give to the place a character which has been before remarked upon, and which we trust it may long maintain. It is not yet written upon the records of the association that even a lord has been ruined at Wimbledon; while there has radiated forth from this common an amount of national advantage which cannot very easily be estimated.

To rifle the Wimbledon meeting possesses, of course, a special interest of its own. To them its excitement is more than tepid. These they can measure the progress which they have made, and observe all the latest novelties connected with their craft. The little canvas street, which goes by the name of "Bazaar-street," contains every sort of contrivance which the ingenuity of our gun-makers is able to produce, and many more, apparently, than the sportsman or the rifleman could find occasion to employ. And the "exhibition tent" is filled to overflowing with a glittering display of prizes, and of silversmiths', jewellers', and clockmakers' wares, astonishing to behold. A hearty, ready hospitality, too, lurks within the fluttering white tents, which stand in their bright settings of flowers and which present camp life in a veritable *coulour de rose*. And there is a monster pavilion for eating and drinking, where Messrs. Spiers and Pond appear to provide really good refreshments at a reasonable rate. We may, perhaps, take exception to a practice in which we saw one waiter indulge, of producing tea-spoons out of his pocket for the benefit of customers; but, on the whole, the commissariat department really appears to be satisfactory; and this is no small contribution to the success of the meeting.

In one sense the meeting has been less satisfactory this year than last. The wind has generally been of a cross, puffy character, which has seriously interfered with shooting: while on some days the mirage has palpitated as strongly as during the lustrous heat of last summer. These things, combined with the disease of shooting-screens or improvised screens of interposing friends, have resulted in a sensible falling off in the average shooting; and the highest scores for the Queen's prize have been some five or six points less than last year. The Lords and Commons match is one which always excites a good deal of interest. This year the slovenly shooting of the Lords enabled the Commons to win an easy victory, and gave full effect to Lord Elcho's hope that "the Lords would not move an amendment of the Commons score." As usual, the breech-loading firing-points are generally crowded; but this year the breech-loading shooting is more than usually interesting, on account of the attention which has been bestowed upon this class of arm since the last meeting. The general character of the breech-loading shooting will certainly, notwithstanding the wind, be better than last year, on account of the improvements in the weapons and the more practised skill of the men. Last year the aggregate value of the prizes was £10,592 in money, exclusive of £8765 worth of cups and £572 worth of medals, &c. We do not know whether this year's prize-list is quite as rich, for we have not been at the pains to add up the figures which are scattered through the useful little shilling handbook published by the association; but the list of prizes has been quite heavy enough to tempt all the best riflemen in the United Kingdom to compete.

Of the great competitions engaged in, that for the Queen's prize has resulted in a triumph for Mr. Angus Cameron, of the 6th Inverness Volunteers, who, by a score of 71, has proved himself, for the second time, to be the best shot among our citizen soldiers. Mr. Cameron was Queen's prizeman three years ago. The Elcho challenge shield has been won by Scotland this year, the score of the three nationalities being—Scotland, 1149; Ireland, 1090; and England, 1081. The annual contest between the Houses of Lords and Commons has resulted in a victory for the Lower Chamber, which may or may not be regarded as an omen of the result of another contest in which the two Legislative Chambers are about to engage. The prizes will be distributed this day (Saturday) by Princess Christian, when the closing review will also be held. A battalion of 3000 regulars will take part in the operations.

The general aspect of the camp during the meeting has already been described in our columns; and an idea of the life led by those who really "rough it" may be acquired from the Engraving we this week publish of the Camp Kitchen, where those who cannot or will not patronise the dining-pavilion, cook their own victuals in the best way they can with the help of the ranges, pans, kettles, &c., provided for them.

ACCIDENT TO A SALOON STEAMER.

A COLLISION, that might have been attended with serious consequences, occurred on the river on Saturday last. The saloon steamer *Albert Victor*, under the charge of Captain Blacketer, while on her way to Margate and Ramsgate, and having on board between 300 and 400 passengers, a little below Thames Haven, came into collision with a schooner belonging to Goole. Captain Blacketer had only a short time previously entered the saloon to get his dinner, and the vessel was in charge of one of the mates when the collision occurred. The schooner struck the steamer on the starboard paddle-box, a large portion of the outer casing of the latter being carried away. The shock was tremendous, the passen-

gers on deck as well as those below in the cabins being thrown violently from their seats. A scene of terrible consternation ensued amongst the passengers, those below rushing on deck in a frantic state, the belief being prevalent that the steamer was sinking. Captain Blacketer, on gaining the deck, found that the paddle had become locked, owing to a chain from the schooner getting round it, while several of the fans of the paddle were destroyed. The captain at once dispatched a boat to Thames Haven to procure the aid of the *Sir Walter Raleigh* steamer, and then, with the assistance of Mr. Kennedy, the chief engineer, and his staff, set to work, and, after a delay of about two hours and a half, succeeded in cutting the chain adrift, by which means the *Albert Victor* was enabled to resume her journey. While this operation was being effected the suspense endured by the passengers was most painful, and their anxiety was increased when a large steamship coming down the river was found to be so crowded that she could afford no assistance, the master of the latter promising to send aid from Margate as soon as he arrived there. The scene on board the *Albert Victor* was almost indescribable, and it was only through the coolness and presence of mind of the captain and his men that some of the passengers did not leap overboard in their fright. The schooner also appeared to be completely disabled by the accident. The news of the collision had preceded the arrival of the *Albert Victor* at Margate, three hours behind her time, and a large crowd assembled on the pier, who welcomed the vessel with tremendous cheers and other demonstrations of enthusiasm. The passengers speak highly of the coolness displayed by the captain, and his attention to those who were suffering, either mentally or from bruises, and they drew up a testimonial which was signed by some fifty persons, exonerating him from blame in the matter.

THE LOUNGER.

IN the matter of the Irish Church Bill, I have to report, after sedulously inquiring in all accessible official places, of all sorts of people, including men in office and sagacious politicians not in office, that Gladstone means to be firm as Ailsa Craig; that his party will loyally and silently support him, leaving him and such of his colleagues as he may call upon to defend the Government policy; and that the bill will be sent back to the Lords almost entirely in the same state as it was when their Lordships first received it. What the Conservative Lords will do, that no one can say; perhaps their leaders do not know themselves. The Conservatives in the House of Commons say that the Lords will be as firm as Gladstone is obstinate. It is firmness when they speak of the Lords; it is obstinacy when they talk of Gladstone. If this should be so, of course the bill will be lost. But will the Lords be firm? That, I think, still is to be doubted. I cannot bring my mind at present to believe that political sagacity is wholly extinct in the Upper House. Cairns would at all hazards wreck the bill, but he is not leader now. Lord Salisbury is really the arbiter of the destinies of the measure, and in him I still have faith. Of course, the Lords will not insist upon the concurrent endowment clause. The majority for it was only seven. It will be rejected in the Commons by at least 120. The clause giving glebe-houses to the disestablished Irish Church will also be rejected by the Commons by a majority equally large. On this the Lords may insist; but remember that many Lords who voted for it did so because they wished to give glebes to the Roman Catholics and Presbyterians. These, when they shall have discovered that the amendment to this effect cannot be insisted upon, will vote against the other. But still, if Lord Salisbury give the word, he will be able to carry it. Will he give the word? At first he may, and carry the motion to resist. But at last, when the grave question comes before him, Shall we reject this bill and throw the whole country into commotion?—Well, if this were the be-all and end-all, perhaps he might. But, though he may scotch, he cannot kill the measure. If rejected now, in less than six months it will be on the table of the Lords' House again, with fifty new peers at Lord Granville's back; and this Lord Salisbury knows; and, knowing this, I think he will pause. I have made much of these two amendments—or, rather, of the amendment giving glebes to the disestablished Church (for the other is as good as rejected)—because it is the most formidable *casus belli*. Get rid of that, and the principal obstacle will be gone. On the whole, though the prospect before us is dark and uncertain, I, in common with much more sagacious politicians, think that the cloud will pass away, and that the bill will ride out the storm and be safe in port in a fortnight. In that case, members may be on the moors on the 12th. Indeed, in any case, I do not think that the Session will be prolonged beyond the 12th.

The course of this bill through the Upper House has been to an onlooker from outside amusing and very instructive, especially the conduct of the Bishops and the lay defenders of the Church. The principle of a Church establishment was, till lately, held up as the ark of God, and he that attempted to destroy it was denounced as a very Uzzah, deserving Uzzah's punishment. It was a subject which, in a mixed company, especially if clergymen were present, one dared not even mention. Hint only that an established Church was an evil, and at once, though you might be as pure as an angel and as pious as a saint, you were denounced as a godless infidel. Poor Edward Miall! what pitiless pelting storms of ecclesiastical wrath have been for years poured upon him and his Anti-State Church Association! But, lo! when the clause disestablishing the Irish Church came before the House of Lords it was scarcely discussed, and, if I remember rightly, it was passed without a division!—the Archbishops and Bishops looking on as coldly whilst the deed was being done as they do when a road bill is running through the House. But mark what a change came over the Right Reverend Fathers in God when the money question came before them. "Touch it not; it is the gift of God; you will be guilty of sacrilege if you take a penny of it," they shouted frantically. The "ark of God" you may take, and even destroy; but the vessels of gold and the plates of gold, beware of Heaven's wrath if you divert them to secular uses! And then, how came those seven Prelates to vote for concurrent endowment?—endowment of Popery, recollect! Endowment of error! Why, what has become of the theory that the State has a conscience, &c.? Well, there cannot be any question that these Prelates voted for this concurrent endowment because they thought that it would act as a breakwater to the endowment of their own Church. It was craft, simply craft. I am not naturally cynical, but when I saw the division list I could not help muttering, "Can such worldly craft dwell in divine minds?" Altogether, one would say the Bishops have during these discussions rather soiled those emblems of purity, their lawn sleeves.

Mr. Sheridan, the other night, asked—or proposed to ask, for I do not think that he has yet asked—the Commissioner of Works an ugly question about the steam-boilers used in the cellars below the Houses of Parliament—question calculated to shake the nerves of honourable members. Steam-boilers! What! Do we sit over steam-boilers! Yes, indeed! And you would gather from Mr. Sheridan's question that they are in shocking bad order, and not properly inspected. But rest, rest, perturbed spirits! calm your fears. The steam-boilers under the House are in bad condition; but they are never used—have not been used for many years. Moreover, the steam-boilers that are used—some hundred yards away—are regularly inspected; and, whilst they might be worked up to 120, they never are worked to above 18. In short, the hon. member found a mare's nest!

Perhaps some of your readers may not be aware that London has for some months past been blessed with the issue of several political comic journals, or "serio-comic," as one of them calls itself. These publications are mostly of Conservative proclivities, and are distinguished by three characteristics—namely, intense party bitterness, considerable ignorance, and total unconsciousness of absurdity; which last quality affords the public more fun in laughing at than with their conductors. In a late number of one of these journals, I find it stated that the province of Ulster "is more Protestant than Roman Catholic," and that, consequently, "it would be hard to disestablish the Church there." Now, the writer is totally wrong as to facts here, for the very reverse is the truth,

the province of Ulster being infinitely more Roman Catholic than Protestant. It is true that Ulster is the most Protestant province in Ireland; and it may also be true that there are counties in Ulster which contain more Protestants than Papists; but when people talk of a province, they must take the whole province. In Ulster, then, there are rather more than 900,000 Roman Catholics, slightly over 300,000 Presbyterians, and a little under 300,000 Episcopalians; so that the Papists outnumber the Protestants of both divisions by at least one third—that is 300,000 souls. So much for the information of one of your serio-comic contemporaries, which, perhaps, only echoes a mistake common in certain ill-informed quarters. Another of the serio-comics—which boasts of being the most pungent political paper published, and is certainly the most coarsely abusive—was so cock-sure that the House of Lords would reject the Irish Church Bill on the second reading that it had, I hear, prepared an elaborate cartoon portraying the "kicking out" of the unfortunate measure. The event which disappointed the editor's expectations came in time to enable the cartoon to be cancelled and another to be scrambling got ready to take its place: but so little has the conductor of the paper profited by experience that he this week represents Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowe, and the Government bill as being "knocked to pieces" by the peers at the games of "three sticks a penny" and "Aunt Sally." Had not this pungent gentleman better wait till the game is played out before he crows over the victory?—especially as not a few of his previous predictions have been utterly falsified by events. A third paper—the special "serio-comic"—drawing inspiration from Sir Walter Scott's song "Bonnie Dundee," depicts Lord Derby, as Claverhouse, daunting the Lords of Convention, represented, of course, by Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues. Now, it is just possible that the draughtsman of this cartoon may be serenely ignorant as to the character and career of John Grahame, Viscount Dundee; and, finding something about "false Whigs" and "cavaliers"—who, like modern Tories, assumed to be gentlemen *par excellence*—thought "Bonnie Dundee" was just the thing for a hit at the Whigs of these days. But surely it is a poor compliment to Lord Derby to compare him to "Clavers," of evil memory. Whether the cartoonist knows the history of that worthy or not, however, he points a truer moral than he dreamt of, for as are the notions of Viscount Dundee, so will be those of Lord Derby. The family and the ideas on behalf of whom Claverhouse combated, murdered, tortured, burned, destroyed, and died, are as extinct as the dodo, or as the Established Church of England in Ireland soon will be. "Mend your instance," serio-comic; you are rather unlucky this time. Then a fourth comic journal, somewhat famous for its personalities towards personages in high places, vigorously defends itself against the imputation of snobishness in making those attacks on high personages; all the while, apparently, unconscious that "cad" and not "snob" is the right term to apply to the perpetrators of such attacks. The writer of the defence quotes the authority of Thackeray for the meaning he attaches to the word "snob." Now, here is Thackeray's definition, which, as it seems to me, does not quite fit—"A snob is that man or woman who is always pretending to be something better—especially richer or more fashionable—than they are." No, my scalping friend, it was not snob you meant to write, but *cad*—a word which, though it has not yet, as indicating a fellow who rails at dignities simply because they are dignities, found a place in Webster's Dictionary, is a very expressive term nevertheless.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Macmillan I postpone, because it so happens that one of the articles it contains makes it peculiarly fit to be dealt with in company with the *Fortnightly Review* and the *British Quarterly* this month.

Once a Week has lately not been quite as good as it used to be, but it is still one of the pleasantest of magazines. The woodcuts, too, are usually of the best. The velocipedes are here, of course, as they are everywhere. By-the-by, has anybody recollected what I remember used to be said of them when I was a boy—namely, that the use of them tended to produce rupture? It certainly seems likely. I regret to see it stated that the publication of a collected edition of the poems of poor John Clare is only stopped by the fact that the representatives of his family stand out for terms that would not be remunerative to a publisher! I venture to think that an edition of John Clare, with an introductory essay by Mr. Richard Holt Hutton, would sell.

In *Good Words* the Rev. Patrick Beaton writes a memoir of the late Colonel Dunn, "V.C." "the youngest Colonel in the service," who distinguished himself in the Balaklava charge, and died by misadventure in Abyssinia. The curious part of a fine, soldierly, heroic life was that the young man had a presentiment that he should never return from that country alive. I am sorry to say I can by no means agree with his biographer in condemning Colonel Dunn for retiring from his regiment, the 11th Hussars, when another person, whose claims were far inferior to his own, was put over his head: it seems to me to have been a very proper act of self-respect in a man who could afford it. If a man had a wife and family depending upon his earnings, it would have been his duty to pocket such a slight; but it might justly arouse feelings of resentment in any human being. While I am on this young man's career, I will venture to say a kind of thing which nobody has ever to my knowledge said before—that I could never get up any sympathy with the spirit in which the Balaklava charge was undertaken. It was all very well to say, "I know there is some blunder; but a soldier's duty is obedience." But I affirm that this was a case in which obedience was a daring foppery, and that the man who—knowing of the feud between him and a certain other noble personage—led so many men to certain death was not (to quote the words of a pamphlet which I remember at the time) "a hero at Balaklava." When Nelson, in the Baltic, disobeyed orders he was a hero—exercising a discretion; and, if I had been at Balaklava, I am quite sure I, too, should have exercised a discretion, and refused to charge those batteries. Men are not intended to be machines, and great as was the bravery of men like Dunn and his unfortunate comrades, the Balaklava story has always seemed to me one of the most gloomy in history. Inkerman would never have been won if a soldier has no "discretion." I have talked this over with military people, among others, and, though I never met one who would say, plump, that the obviously "blundered" order ought to have been disobeyed, I have known those who would have said it if they had dared. The same magazine contains from its Special Commissioner a capital paper on "The Buckinghamshire Labourer;" and one by Mr. Kingsley, about ventilation, which is not so pleasantly written as it might be. If a human body be in health it is not correct to say that the expired air is "impure." Carbonic acid in certain quantities is not "poison;" and—and, in fact, there is a good deal to be said upon this matter. But, of course, the general design of the paper is most excellent. Still, I wish Mr. Kingsley had generalised less, and given a few specific directions. How very few people have the least idea of the way to produce effective ventilation without creating a draught! By-the-by, Mr. Kingsley says he knows of no better way of keeping the air of a room refreshed from time to time than one of Arnot's ventilators. Has he heard of a quite recent invention, the ventilating cornice? I remember some years ago, in a book of housekeeping, written by a lady for people with about £2000 a year (I think), a capital plan for ventilating a crowded room (without causing a draught) through the windows. The ventilating people—Miss Nightingale not excepted—are most of them fanatics, and not sufficiently mindful of the danger there is from sharp currents of air. Some of Miss Nightingale's suggestions would half kill many of the people I have known. A word of warm praise is due to the poem by "B. B. B."

In the *Sunday Magazine*, that energetic story, "The Crust and the Cake," contains a portrait, which I must really quote—"There was yet another who anxiously tried to renew her acquaintance

with the beclouded household, but only as a vulture is attracted to a carcass. Mrs. Deane was one of those creatures of evil omen who haunt dark places, and offer their sympathy in exchange for the latest melancholy particulars. Nor was she to be easily reassured. She might not be invited to partake of tea and supper, but she would linger on, and so postpone the family meal. The situation grew painfully awkward for everybody concerned. I know this person perfectly well. The paper "Deaf Mutes" contains some startling statistics—125 deaf and dumb children out of only twenty-three families! Out of 10 children, 8 born deaf-mutes; out of 8, 7; out of 6, 5; sometimes the whole family born so—this is horrible. It is an interesting fact that a painting in this year's Royal Academy Exhibition (3), "Drink to me only with thine eyes," is painted by a deaf-mute, Davidson, who was formerly a private pupil in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in the Old Kent-road; and that (296) "Sad Memories" is also his. Apropos, there is some mistake about the woodcut on page 625; a pity, for the old girl is very cleverly drawn.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I must begin with an apology. I was not lazy last week; and, though there was but little going on, I jotted down several heads of dramatic gossip, as usual; but, for the first time in my experience, my friendly pillar-post failed me. For a long time past I have avoided receiving houses; and now, on all sides, I hear complaints about the pillars. Let the Marquis of Hartington reflect before he makes them the repositories for telegraphic messages. I think I owe this apology to the courteous readers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Mr. Buckstone has started on his travels, and last Saturday night took his benefit. He revived an old play of Peake's, called "The Haunted Inn," and appeared as the celebrated nephew, with a keen eye to business, who frightens his respected aunt and uncle out of their property by appearing as a ghost every night, and clanking a heavy chain down the staircase. It is needless for me to relate how the audience laughed at Mr. Buckstone, in nightgown and nightcap, simulating the ghost. I don't think the worthy manager's speech—which is always a great feature on these occasions—was quite so funny or so much to the point as usual. It consisted merely of a recapitulation of what had happened, and various promises for the future. Strange to say, Mr. Buckstone did not receive a single bouquet. I have seen him retire with an arm-full before now.

Miss Amy Sedgwick has taken the HAYMARKET for a short season of twenty-four nights, and on Monday produced a new and original comedy, called "All for Money," written by a Miss Le Thière, a lady I once thought, after seeing her play in "Hunted Down," at the St. James's, would have made a valuable actress. But, unfortunately, she left fashionable comedy, for which she seemed particularly suited, and took to playing Scotch melodramatic heroines—Helen McGregor, in "Rob Roy," to wit—and lachrymose ladies in poetical plays by Mr. Marston. After which I, of course, gave up Miss Le Thière for lost. The new comedy is a strange, rambling work; but I have seen many worse first attempts. The authoress has evidently some good notions in her head, but she is afraid of working them out; and, having led up to a good situation, runs away from it frightened. The consequence is that the story is jerky and awkward, and as at the end of the second act, the theory of the reconciliation of the wife and husband—the one a woman of fashion, and the other a man of business, and, consequently, each going on their separate way through life—is told, the interest of the comedy drops at once. Another puzzling feature about the play is that the audience is never clearly informed where the scene is laid. Either Miss Le Thière has been distressingly reticent to the scene-painter, or the scene-painter has been ridiculously careless and inaccurate. From the dialogue I should imagine that the scene ought to represent the exterior and interior of a house, say, in Hyde Park-gardens or any of the park terraces which have a garden in common to several mansions. But it is nothing of the kind on the stage. The scene represents an etherealised Hampton Court Palace—namely, a magnificent red-brick mansion, looking on to an Italian terraced garden—indeed, a perfectly impossible London house; and, as it to increase the difficulties with the audience, when the interior is represented, gigantic forest-trees and a distant park of great magnitude are shown through the open windows. So much for the scenery; but the difficulties surrounding the time of day on which the second act takes place are overpowering. A lady is supposed to be fetched from a ball at the urgent request of her husband when he comes home from a late sitting of the House of Commons; and yet, at this time of night—at the earliest, midnight—young men come through the garden to make farewell visits to the lady of the house, who changes her ball dress for a fashionable breakfast wrapper, and offers her visitors five o'clock tea! There is a muddle for you! To add to the perplexity a young lady holds a confidential interview with an old friend who lives next door and talks about going to a "Drawing-room" at midnight. Miss Le Thière must surely know better than this. Either she is misinformed about the usages of society or a great deal of the dialogue is omitted. The comedy is what is known as a "one-part piece." Miss Sedgwick is for ever on the stage, and the true comedy notion of the character is spoiled by dramatic sandwiches of heavy and ludicrous speeches full of empty platitudes about women, and money, and the position of Parliamentary husbands in the social scale. In the lighter and pure comedy touches Miss Sedgwick is really very good, and was deservedly applauded for a very pretty scene with her cold husband, in which she wins him back to devotion. But when Miss Sedgwick gasps out these ridiculous speeches, heavily written, and utterly pointless, she knows as well as I do that no woman in the world talks so, and that all this so-called "fat" merely retards the action of the play, and is of no assistance towards making Ida Mortimer a good acting part. The villain of the play was admirably played by Mr. Henry Irving—the very king of fashionable villains—and made up after the manner of a west-end theatre, who is only known to the very clever ones. When Mr. Irving carries up the whiskers right into the hair, the make up will be as good as the acting, which is very finished and powerful. Mrs. Stephens, from the Globe, a first-rate actress, was a lark old maid, a character she has played scores of times before, but seldom better. Her little affected ways are in the best spirit of caricature. Mr. Vernon, also from the Globe, and Mr. Gaston Murray were badly suited with characters; and Miss Maude Haydon was obviously ill-suited to the one she essayed to act. As far as the acting is concerned full justice has been done to Miss Le Thière's comedy, and I have no doubt that when she tries again she will produce a far better play. A little more care, polish, and skill in construction would have made a fair comedy out of "All for Money."

Mr. Dion Boucault calls his DRURY LANE drama "Formosa; or, the Road to Ruin." I see, besides Miss Maggie Brennan, the management has engaged Mr. Henry Irving and Miss Neilson.

Mr. Fechter has been able to break off his provincial engagements, which were to have occupied him until leaving for America, in order to play Hamlet at the SURREY; and "The Willow Copse" has been substituted for "Eve" at the ADELPHI. The sooner Messrs. Boucault and Byron are ready with their drama the better, I think.

Mr. Charles Mathews and his wife go to the PRINCESS's; the latter, I believe, will play a strong melodramatic character—at last.

HAMPSTEAD-HEATH ESTATE AND TITLE.—We are informed that the doubts so long existing as to the title of Sir Thomas M. Wilson to the above estate is about being speedily cleared up. The heir-at-law of the late Henry Filcroft, Esq., who held the lands in fee—comprising Hendon, Froggall, Hollybush Hill, Aughton, &c.—has commenced proceedings for the recovery of his rights. His trustee is now actively engaged in London and Hampstead, and there is a prospect that the matter may shortly be definitively disposed of.

Literature.

Medical Life in the Navy. By W. STABLES, M.D., Assistant Surgeon, R.N., Author of "Wild Adventures in the Far North." London: Hardwicke.

That an intelligent young Scotchman at sea is likely to make a pleasant effort in pen and ink has been recognised since the days of Smollett; and perhaps, since Mr. Hannay's earliest brochure, "Biscuits and Grog," there has been no fresher nor more lively little book than this by Dr. Stables. As soon as he has got over the journey to town, the "first night in Cockneydom," the terrors of examination, and the still greater terrors of the Hebrew "navy-agents," who seem to be quite as bad as their Christian fellows—in fact, as soon as he is on board and has fairly joined the service—there is plenty of amusement and information, given in straightforward style, and always strongly marked with the impress of truth. The next step was six weeks' probation at Haslar Hospital, a sensible arrangement for teaching the routine of medical service to the novices. In noticing Haslar, or in any professional matters, it may as well be said that Dr. Stables always seems perfectly fair. He does not say unnecessarily hard things of the service, although his physical and mental sufferings must have been full measured. He seems to have taken things as he found them, and only to have broken down in disgust, as any humane man would, at witnessing the barbarous punishment of flogging.

Once afloat, the amenities of the service soon display themselves, especially to a Scotsman, who is always determined to see the world, even if it be no further than England. Dr. Stables has little to say of Madeira—less, even, than Captain Marryatt had, when the prettiest girl in the island married the ship's clerk, as soon as he landed, "mainly because he boasted a fresh complexion and a clean shirt, qualities wholly unknown to the Portuguese." But at St. Helena we get a trait of purely British life. Going to the whilom tomb of the Great Napoleon, the doctor found "both sides of the road, all the way, strewn with *Bass's beer-bottles*—empty, of course—and at the grave itself hogheads of them; and the same is the case at every place which John Bull has visited." And the doctor goes on to say, humorously, that when he has landed at any out-of-the-way place and not found a beer-bottle there, he has always made up his mind that it was unknown to Englishmen and annexed it accordingly, in the name of the Sovereign. The east coast of Africa can scarcely be one of the pleasantest stations for cruising about; but yet all the objections may be toned down into simple heat and weevils. These latter pick your teeth, whilst the cockroaches run away with little bits of skin from your legs; earwigs, scorpions, centipedes, and tarantulas being by no means mere quiet spectators of your misery. Coming to more serious matters, in the Mozambique Channel, we find the author, who is a thorough humanitarian, "dead" against our attempted abolition of the slave trade! "I sincerely believe that there is more good done to the spread of civilisation and religion in one year by the slave trade than all our missionaries can do in a hundred." This is startling. We cannot quote the pages of argument, but they put the doctor's view strongly.

There is no need for us to pursue the voyage further. Most people have read books which have something to say about the places touched at here, and the various amusements and monotonies of life afloat. But Dr. Stables establishes points of interest of his own, such as we have described, together with remarks on shaving, officers' mess-talk, and so forth. There must be plenty of room for reforms, and it must not be forgotten that Mr. Childers does not shave, although, indeed, he may sometimes talk a column or two more than seems necessary.

Twice Refused. A Novel. By CHARLES E. STIRLING. Two vols. London: Tinsley Brothers.

Although Mr. Stirling's title, "Twice Refused," naturally suggests a love-story, a rough glance through the pages led us to expect much of a more serious character. Coming across the names of Sir Charles Sedley and John Milton, it was easy to expect that Mr. Stirling would have given some imaginary conversation from those well-known men on the respective glories of republics and monarchies—together with (say) an occasional paragraph in favour of unlicensed printing—a good deal about Adam and Eve in blank verse, and just a little rhymed verse of a far more exhilarating character. But no—it is a love-story, pure and simple enough. Sir Charles Sedley is merely a modern Baronet, who mends his broken heart and his broken fortunes by adopting every system which Australia can suggest; whilst John Milton is a wary old club-lounger, who has had disappointments of his own making.

The story opens with Sir Charles Sedley reflecting that he is ruined, and that he would rather marry for money than have to go abroad for it. So he at once lays siege to Helen Lorraine. This sounds well enough; but, unfortunately, although really meaning Helen, he becomes seriously attached to Florence Turton, Helen's poor companion, whilst Helen has cast in her own fond chance with young Ralph Trevor. "What an idiot I have been," says the Baronet, "and what a rôle I have to play! I have to tell Miss Florence Turton that I adore her, but that my matrimonial arrangements are in favour of Miss Lorraine. If she reciprocates my feelings, as I fancy she does, the announcement of these facts is hardly likely to be agreeable to her; if she does not, there is no amount of scorn and derision she won't heap on me," &c. However, the characters themselves, as well as the reader, can see how affairs lie; and, after much ungentleman-like and vacillating weakness on the part of Sir Charles towards Florence, he proposes and is rejected. And this happens a second time, Florence being actuated by the high motive of not being a burden to her lover. But she does not tell him that. The Baronet goes to Australia, and soon makes a large fortune, and good luck likewise befalls Florence. She proves to be "somebody else," with a very fine property, and all that she has to trouble her in the world is her utter loneliness; for the other young people are married, and Mr. Stirling does not destroy his story with too many characters. To cure this loneliness, Florence (who has already become the owner of Sir Charles's estate) resolves on a visit to Australia, for no other reason than to look after the interest of a small property left her by her father. Here, of course, she meets the Baronet; and, after a fair amount of skirmishing, they drop into each other's arms as if they had been born to the business. As we said, "Twice Refused" is a thorough love-story; and the reader must expect but little in the way of adventure. There are two or three graphic scenes of the Indian mutiny; and a death which might reasonably have been avoided—save that, in that case, Florence would not have had so much money. Mr. Stirling's writing is always easy and readable; and his characters are agreeable companions, who talk about love and flirting in a natural and nonsensical manner. These remarks are really intended as a bait for novel-readers; but yet a very much better novel must be expected from Mr. Stirling next time.

A Course of Six Lectures on the Chemical Changes of Carbon. By WILLIAM ODLING, M.B., F.R.S. Reprinted from the *Chemical News*; with Notes by William Crookes, F.R.S. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

If Mr. J. H. Pepper or any other man were to contend that it is impossible to interest the youthful mind in science without the aid of legerdemain, let these six lectures delivered by Mr. Odling at the Royal Institution before a juvenile auditory during the Christmas holidays bear evidence to the contrary. As the reader follows the simple, clear, and forcible expositions of Mr. Odling on the chemical changes of carbon he can readily believe, on the authority of Mr. Crookes, that a chemical lecture delivered by such a man as Faraday or Odling exerts "a lasting and glorious influence" over the youthful mind. "Only those who have seen the rapt and delighted gaze of the juvenile audiences as they followed with intelligent apprecia-

tion each experiment and explanation of Faraday can fully appreciate the enormous amount of good which must arise from these lectures. The worthy successor of Faraday in his chair at the Royal Institution has so far followed the footsteps of his predecessor that he has continued to give lectures to the young, and with eminently successful results." It is very amusing to notice how artfully those learned professors of science flatter the vanity of we children of a larger growth by assuming that we know more about chemistry than do the little ones, and direct their discourse to them instead of to us, while in truth most adults are in point of knowledge on a level with the juveniles. We may be permitted to question if there are many homes amongst the thousands where we sincerely hope these lectures will circulate where father and mother will not learn from Mr. Odling a great deal regarding the works of God of which they were profoundly ignorant. In these discourses they will have the instruction of a thoroughly competent master, who, in condescending to the unimproved capacity, never forgets the dignity of his subject, no doubt imbued with the conviction that in expounding the mysteries of creation he hath indeed taken upon himself a grave responsibility, inconsistent with the levity and burlesque which is frequently associated with what are called scientific lectures. If there be still amongst us some people who look upon this world as a reprobate and abandoned planet running its course towards perdition, they will find in the perusal of these lectures on carbon enough evidence to convince them that the laws by which we live, move, and have our being are most delicately and kindly calculated to minister to our present happiness, and they will find nothing to countenance or support gloomy or distrustful views of Divine Providence. There must be either a woeful want of perception or a singular absence of veneration in minds that are not led by what may be termed the ministry of science towards a high and ennobling trust in the great Power to whose wisdom and goodness the revelations of science bear witness with constantly accumulating testimony. Mr. Odling includes in his course of six lectures all that can be said on the subject of carbon capable of being understood by the ordinary reader; while the notes by Mr. Crookes explain the nature of the elements used in illustrating the lectures.

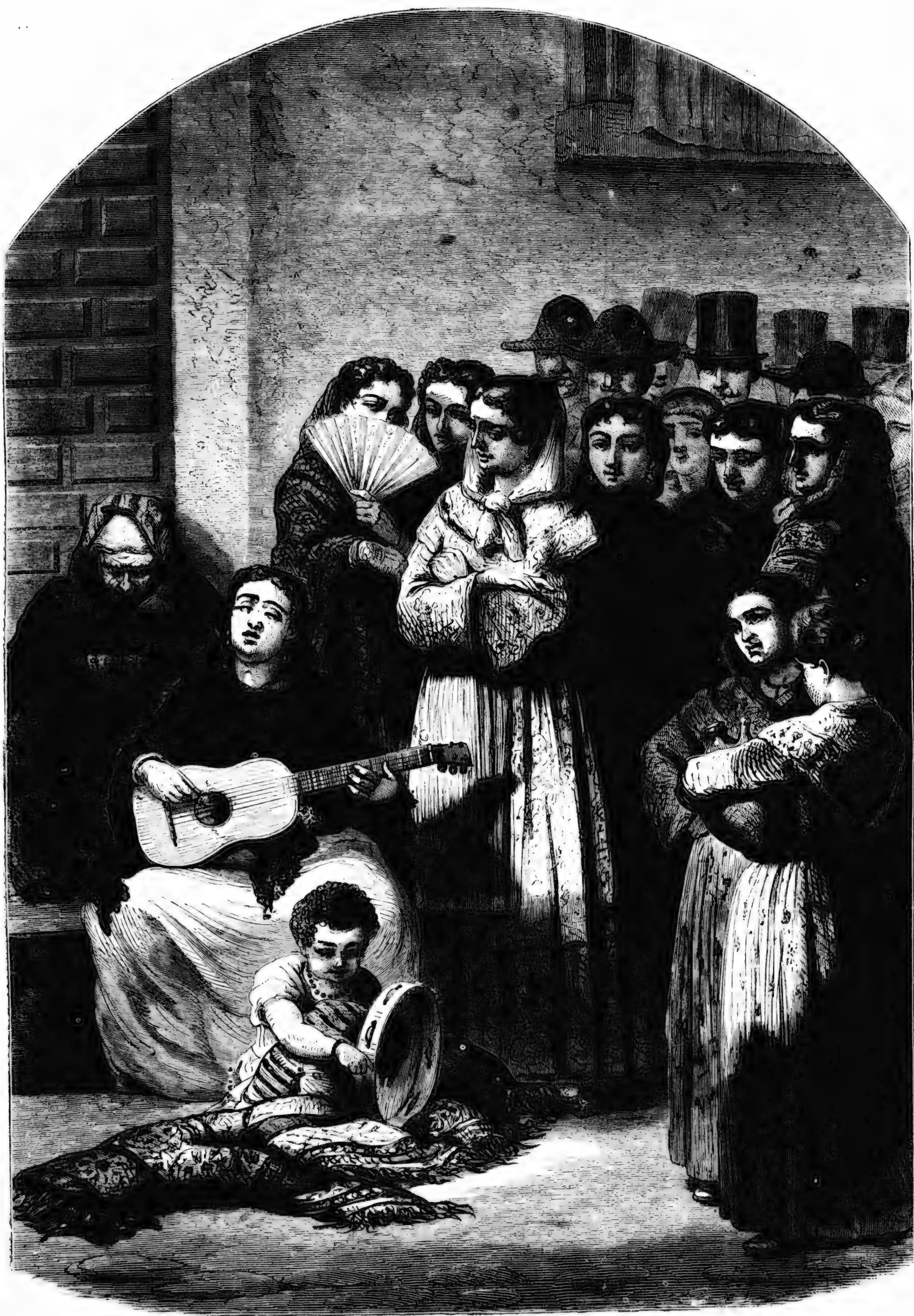
SUICIDE OF "THE EMPEROR'S PRESERVER."—The French papers announce the suicide of the once-famous Komisaroff, who, a few years ago, saved the life of the Emperor Alexander of Russia, by seizing the arm of the would-be assassin, Carakosoff, at the moment he was about to fire. Born a serf, he was at once elevated by Imperial favour to the rank of a nobleman; a national subscription was opened in his favour, and wealthy courtiers vied with each other in showering gifts on him whom they delighted to honour as the saviour of the country. Whether this sudden avalanche of fortune's favours turned the brain of the ci-devant serf, or whether the greatness thus thrust on him proved too irksome to bear, must remain a mystery; all we are informed is that he has committed suicide by hanging himself in a room of the hotel given to him by the grateful Czar.

DRINKING-FOUNTAINS AND CATTLE-TROUGHS.—The hot weather suggests to Lord Grosvenor a plan for the Metropolitan Drinking-Fountain and Cattle-Trough Association. During the last twelve months (the noble Earl writes) the society has erected nine fountains and thirty-one troughs, making 123 fountains and 123 troughs now under the care of the committee. During the twenty-four hours of the 7th of last month 1293 horses alone (besides oxen, sheep, and dogs) drank at the Uxbridge-road trough, and 1049 at the Victoria-street trough; on the 25th, 1063 at the trough outside Lord's Cricket Ground; and on the 26th, 1197 at the Old Kent-road trough. The return from other troughs is equally large; whilst at the fountain it is estimated that nearly 300,000 people drink daily. Of course, it costs a good deal of money to erect and keep up these fountains—in some cases as much as £30 a year for the water consumed at a single trough. Lord Grosvenor will be happy to receive contributions for the society; or they may be paid to the bankers, Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., and Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co.; or at the office, 1, Shorter's-court, Throgmorton-street.

OPENING OF A CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL AT WIMBLEDON.—On Wednesday a new convalescent hospital was opened, at Cope-hill, Wimbledon. This hospital has been newly erected, pursuant to the terms of the will of the late Mr. Atkinson Morley, who died in the year 1858, and, after sundry other bequests, devised his residuary property to be applied to the building and endowment of a hospital for the purpose of receiving and maintaining and generally assisting the convalescent poor patients from St. George's Hospital until restored to strength and health; none, however, to remain in the hospital longer than six months. The hospital stands in a well-situated piece of ground, sloping towards the south, with a beautiful look-out. In the hall, fronting the entrance, is placed a marble tablet recording the terms of Mr. Atkinson Morley's will, by which he bequeathed, after certain property to relatives and friends, £5000, to found surgical scholarships in University College, £4000 to certain hospitals; £3000, the annual interest of which is to be annually divided among ten widows of the tradesmen of St. James's, Westminster, and the residue to found the hospital. Wednesday was the anniversary of Mr. A. Morley's decease, and a number of the governors of St. George's Hospital met at Cope-hill, where service was performed in the chapel in the hospital, certain portions of a special service being said, in the board-room, the kitchen, the refectory, the wards, &c. The Rev. Mr. Groves, Chaplain of St. George's Hospital, the Rev. Mr. Benwell, Assistant Chaplain of the Convalescent Hospital, and the Rev. Dr. Irons, officiated on the occasion. The wards are spacious and lofty, and the building is arranged to contain one hundred beds, with ample accommodation for the officials, &c. The number of patients admitted on the opening was fifty.

THE LEGALITY OF THE COUP D'ETAT.—The following lively incident occurred during the debates of Friday week in the French Legislative Assembly. The question under discussion was the validity of the election for the Lot-et-Garonne. M. Noubel, the official candidate, in defending his seat, used these words:—"And if Dec. 2 was involved in my election, the result shows that it has been once more approved by the country."—M. Pelletan: "We protest against these words. Dec. 2 was a crime." (Exclamation: "Cries of 'Order!'"—President: "Monieur Pelletan, I call you to order." (Loud cheers. Noise on the left).—M. Pelletan: "I ask to speak on a question of regularity of procedure. The President, before calling me to order, ought to have invited me to explain my words."—The President: "When the thought and the words are so clear, the President ought immediately to call to order. But you can now explain."—M. Pelletan: "I say that in all civilised countries the violation of the Constitution, and the dispersion of the National Assembly by force, whether it comes from the street or is used by a dictator, is a crime, and I maintain what I have said." (Loud exclamations. Applause on some benches around the orator).—M. Jules Favre: "They constantly provoke us." (Noise).—The President: "The provokers are those who make use of such words as those of M. Pelletan. By his explanation he proposes now to maintain a philosophical thesis. If he had insisted on attacking an act sanctioned by the people I would have called him to order a second time." (Hear, hear). M. Pelletan: "I insist on being called to order on these conditions, and this call to order will be upon your head before history." (Exclamations and prolonged noise). The President: "I have no pretension to figure in history; but I hope that, if it occupies itself with me, it will say, 'He was an honest man, who only thought of his duty and his conscience'; and so long as I have the honour to occupy this seat I will try to merit this eulogium." (Loud cheers).

SALFORD ORANGEMEN AT CHURCH.—On Sunday the Orangemen of Salford, with a few from some districts of Manchester, assembled, to the number of about 400, in Albert-square, and walked in procession to St. Bartholomew Church, Salford, where it had been arranged that a special sermon should be preached by the Rev. James Moore. Each man carried a Bible in his right hand, and nearly all wore orange scarves, which, distributed among the congregation, imparted to it a very unusual effect. A good many women were present, displaying blue ribbons. Mr. Moore, in commencing his discourse, said he had told the deputation who waited upon him to request the use of the church and his services that if a political sermon were expected he should not feel at liberty to comply with their request; but that if they would be satisfied with the simple preaching of the gospel, he would be most happy to do so, and would be only fulfilling his duty. He rejoiced that God had put it into the hearts of so many of the Society of Orangemen to attend His house on that occasion, because he feared that some among those present were not in the habit of attending regularly. If that were so, he hoped it would be the case no longer, for it mattered not how good, how loyal, how scriptural, theoretically considered, the principles of any society might be, if the members of that society individually did not live a Christian life, all their excellent principles would avail them nothing. They might depend upon it that the best way to support the Church was to act up to the ordinances of the Church; the best way to prove that they were true and loyal Churchmen was to pay regard to those ordinances which, in the providence of God, had been established amongst them. Referring to the principles of the Orange Association, he said they were sound Protestant principles, which, if acted up to, were calculated to make the members of the association good subjects of our earthly Queen and faithful soldiers of a heavenly King. At the close of the sermon a collection, amounting to £9 8s. 4d., was made on behalf of the Salford Dispensary. While the collection was being made the National Anthem was performed on the organ, and the congregation was "played out" to the tune of "Rule Britannia."



TYPES OF SPANISH LIFE: THE BLIND GUITAR-PLAYER

TYPES OF SPANISH LIFE.

THE BLIND GUITAR-PLAYER.

We have from time to time published illustrations from the sketch-book of an artist whose studies of life in Madrid have served to interest our readers in the types of character displayed in the grand old Spanish city, and our Engraving this week represents one of the best-known of these street musicians who attract the Madrilenes in the neighbourhood of the Calle Carmen.

To be able to comprehend the great popularity of this poor blind artiste it is necessary to remember that the climate makes the evening, and even the later hours of the night, the time for the outdoor promenade or for those quiet conferences in the open balconies which are so common a feature of the scene. At that time of the day the itinerant musicians meet with most encouragement; the place and the hour are favourable to harmony, and sounds, more or less dulcet, break the stillness of the night. Parties of four or five wandering minstrels, singing to the notes of a guitar, perambulate the principal streets; while the pavements are thronged with children looking in the gutter for the coppers that are flung out from the windows above, and often aiding their search by means of lighted "cerillas." Till two o'clock in the morning the serenades go on; and latest of all the performers is the blind girl, who chants her wild gipsy-like couplets, to the accompaniment of a guitar, while the child at her feet drums on a tambourine. Queer enough are the songs of this performer: mostly in couplets, expressing sometimes good wishes, but more often love-rhymes, something like the old "posies" once engraved on rings.

To the few good men in this world may Heaven send luck! ounces in their belts.

And deliverance from the toothache! is one of the strange benedictions of the minstrel; but the exaggerated expressions of the tender passion found in the rude verses of the old Spanish songsters more frequently make the subject of her performance. She herself is an admirable example of the true Spanish type—her pale face shaded by the black mantilla, her dress not only neat but elegant, and her manner singularly graceful. Only the large, dark, liquid eyes are wanting; and those who know how much of character there is in the Spanish eye can estimate the effect of blindness on such a face. So many of her wild couplets speak of "flashing eyes" and "love's glances" that it is painful to think how she may be constantly reminded of her own affliction; but she probably has the compensation of the artiste, who forgets self in the interpretation to others of sentiments and passions which make our common humanity.

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

In those remoter and more simple districts where people lead lives unchequered by the false excitements of great towns, there is sometimes more of the child likeness that belongs to the best part of our nature than can easily be observed in what we are apt to call the midst of civilisation. It is not always so; but the natural surroundings seem to attune us to the perception of the

simple and pure, and the voices and innocent laughter of children make a natural part of the scene. The evening hymn sung by a group of schoolgirls—the morning prayer said solemnly at the mother's knee—have in them something often more truly appealing to our highest sense than may be found in the grand service of a cathedral or the pealing of a mighty organ. In the wild woods, where the only temple accessible for miles is the simple wooden church of the nearest village, or the great temple of the forest trees, with canopy of leaves and the blue sky overhead, men may sometimes feel as though they were brought nearer to the Eternal Love than under the arched and groined roof of a stone edifice; and the simple prayer of the child supplicating for the restoration to

were present, followed the ceremony. The day's subscriptions amounted to £1388. The London Orphan Asylum is one of the great charitable institutions of the country, and one of the noblest organisations of modern philanthropy. The "widows and the fatherless in their affliction," which are pointed out as the truest objects of Christian charity, are the persons it is intended to relieve. The ceremony of Tuesday marks another stage in its very rapid growth. Beginning, in 1813, with three orphan girls, it had grown in 1823 into a school of 156 children and an income of £4357 a year. In that year the foundation-stone of the present building was laid, and in the forty-six years since then the asylum has grown till it



THE CHILD'S PRAYER FOR ITS SICK FATHER.

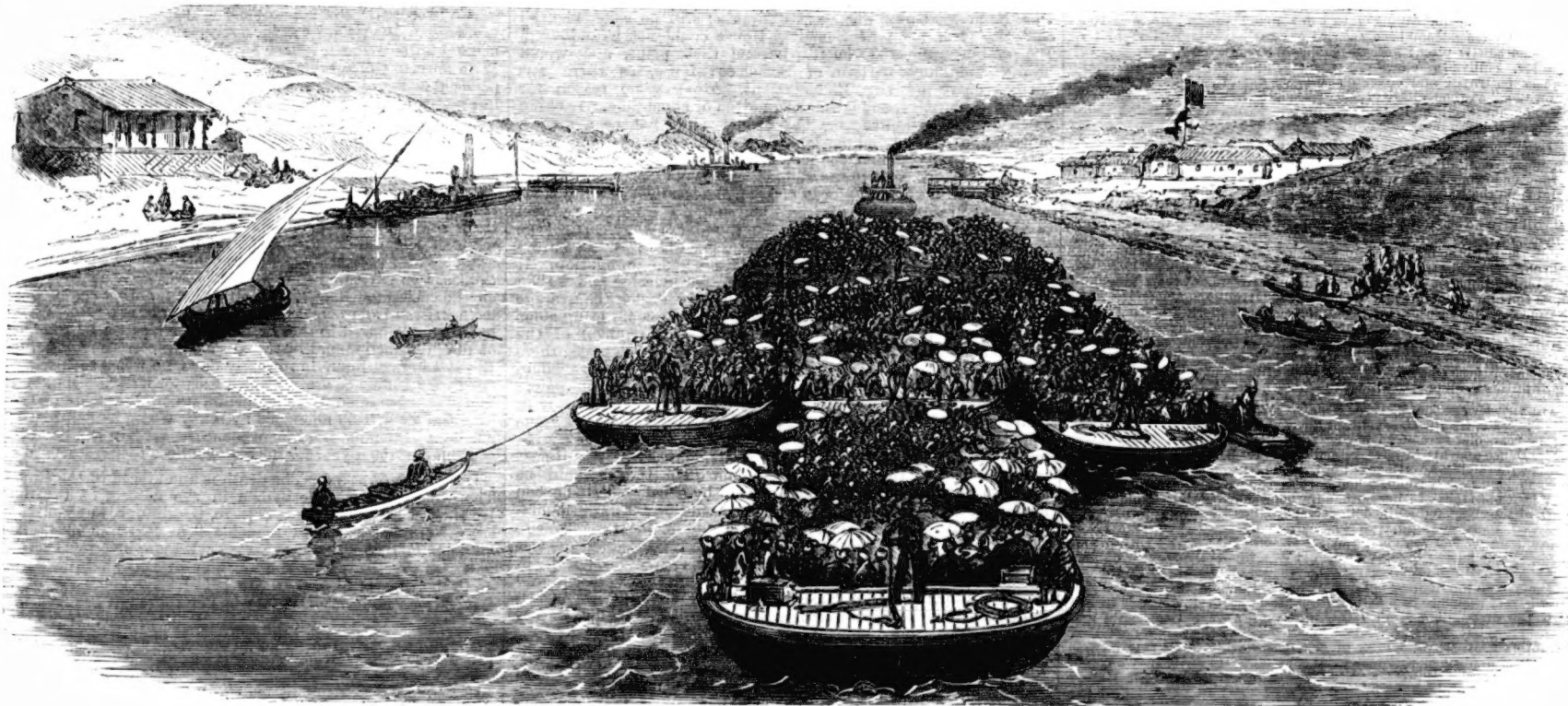
health of a sick father and a mother weary with fear and watching, may need no other accessories than those of the humble cottage home to remind us of our own hopes.

PILGRIMS ON THE JOURNEY TO MECCA.

We have already, in a previous Number, given some account of the new order of things, which has converted the pilgrimage of the faithful to Mecca into a holiday excursion by means of the great barges on the new Suez Canal; and our Engraving represents the scene on board these vessels at Kantara, where the artist had an excellent opportunity of sketching the great assembly on the voyage. Happily, the evils of the old system, which congregated large numbers of sick and uncleanly travellers in certain spots, where they made wretched camps and left the horrible tokens of their presence to corrupt the air, have been so greatly mitigated that no epidemic has broken out amongst the pilgrims this year, though 110,000 people made the journey. Of these, 77,000 arrived by land, and the rest by the sea passage. The Ottoman Government having heard that cholera had broken out at Bombay and in Java, had, in concert with the international conference, insisted on strict precautionary measures and a severe quarantine on all arrivals from those places. It was principally at the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, at the entrance of the Red Sea, that these regulations were enforced; and, as the putrid remains of the animals driven with the cortège for the purposes of food or sacrifice have always been a fertile source of sickness, when they are left to rot at the roadside in the vicinity of the camping-ground, large ditches or pits have been provided, supplied with lime, in which all the decaying organic matter is thrown, and afterwards disinfected with sulphate of iron. These precautions have been successful in abating the usual terrible consequences of so large an assembly; and, though many of the pilgrims were compelled to remain some time at the ports of disembarkation, no case of epidemic is reported, the journey having been very considerably shortened by the new means of transit.

THE LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The foundation-stone of the new London Orphan Asylum at Watford was laid, on Tuesday, by the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Princess. There was a numerous company, and their Royal Highnesses met with an enthusiastic reception. A luncheon, at which the Prince and Princess, at which the Prince and Princess,



MECCA PILGRIMS ON THE SUEZ CANAL.

accommodates 458 orphans and has an income of £14,455. It has now outgrown its Clapton home; and the new building, near Watford—the foundation-stone of which was laid by the Prince of Wales, on Tuesday—is intended to accommodate 600 orphans (200 girls and 400 boys) so as to admit of the reception of one hundred orphans annually. It is difficult to realise the amount of good which is involved in a proposal to take a hundred orphans a year. So many widows helped in their greatest need; so many children rescued, probably, from the slow falling back in the world which so often marks a struggling widow's home; so many poor households brightened with hope—the aggregate of the benefit must be incalculable. It is scarcely possible that such a charity should fail of the support on which it relies, and we are glad to learn that the munificent support which the public has always given the London Orphan Asylum has been again exhibited in the provision for its new building.

THE OPERA.

THE season at the Royal Italian Opera is fast drawing to an end, and the last performance is fixed for Saturday next, July 24. To-night "Le Prophète" is to be produced, with Mlle. Titiens in the part of Fides, and Signor Mongini in that of John of Leyden. "Oello," which was said to be in rehearsal for Mlle. Nilsson (Desdemona) and Signor Tamberlik (Otello), cannot now be brought out this season. In fact, the arrangements for the last week are already published, and include no novelty, except a performance of "Rigoletto," in which Madame Patti will, for the first time in England, assume the part of Gilda. This representation, which takes place on Wednesday, will be for the benefit of Madame Patti. The "benefit" connected with the name of Mlle. Titiens is fixed for Thursday, when "Le Prophète" will be repeated. The "benefit" dedicated to Mlle. Nilsson comes off on Friday, and will "consist" (as the footman in "Pickwick" said of the "swarry") of an act of "Martha," an act of "Faust," and an act of "Hamlet." Finally, on Saturday (the last night of the season) the "Barber of Seville" will be given; Rosina, as a matter of course, Madame Patti.

At the Offenbachian Opera, established for a time at St. James's Theatre, "La Grande Duchesse" has been followed by "Barbe Bleue," and "Barbe Bleue" by "Orphée aux Enfers." "Barbe Bleue" is, as regards dramatic style, something between the two other works, and the three represent fully, and in each case at its best, the particular kind of art by which M. Offenbach and his literary collaborateurs have become famous. "Barbe Bleue" is not a mere burlesque-dramatic version of "Bluebeard," neither does it possess much of that comedy element which abounds in "La Grande Duchesse." The heroine, Boulotte, however, is a character in her way; and so (in a different way) is the King, who practises limited monarchy in so feeble a manner. The Offenbachian operetta of "Barbe Bleue," may be described as an amusing fantasia on the subject of "Bluebeard," including some very ingenious variations. In Boulotte's village, there being nothing to choose between the young women in respect to virtue, it is justly decided that the prize for virtue shall be adjudged by lottery. It falls to Boulotte. She becomes the wife of Bluebeard, and has, in the natural course of things, to share the fate of her predecessors in that unenviable position. This fate, however, is by no means identical with that of the wives in the fairy tale. Bluebeard hands over the unfortunate ladies to his physician, who is eminently qualified by the profession he exercises to dispose of them in a satisfactory manner. Partly, however, from pity, partly from admiration, he prefers to save their lives; and he is afterwards obliged, as a matter of course, to maintain them in secrecy. King Bobèche, a monarch who, whether sinning or not, is certainly sinned against, is in some respects the counterpart of Bluebeard. Instead of tyrannising over many wives, he finds one quite as much as he can manage. As for his wife's numerous admirers, he has them made away with, and, like the condemned spouses of Bluebeard, they live together in seclusion, and form a comparatively happy family. All this and much more has had to be set to music; and M. Offenbach has never been so tunelessly inspired as in writing the music of "Barbe Bleue." Composers, or, to speak more correctly, arrangers of dance-music, had already popularised the pretty and unpretentious little melodies of which M. Offenbach's score is full; and the public do not seem to like them the less now that they meet with them in their proper place, as they existed before they were cut and clipped so as to make them fit the figures of a quadrille. We cannot say, however, that such mutilations shock us very much in the case of M. Offenbach's music, which is not remarkable for any ideal beauty, and which possesses the positive merit of being highly rhythmical. That is also, no doubt, M. Offenbach's own view of the matter; for he not only sanctions the practice, like every other composer who sells his operas absolutely to a music-publisher, but he even operates upon himself. The grotesque and often highly-amusing peculiarities of Mlle. Schneider as Boulotte, the fun of the piece, the prettiness of the music, could not fail to ensure the continued success of "Barbe Bleue" until the time arrived for the production of the well-known "Orphée aux Enfers," which was brought out, with all the success that might have been anticipated, on Monday last, the principal characters being intrusted to Mlle. Schneider and M. Dupuis.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—The success of the present entertainment has been tested by more than one hundred representations; and "No Cards" and "Cox and Box," although in the sixteenth week of their existence, are as popular as ever. The present season is drawing to a close, and those who seek refinement with humour, and the enjoyment of delightful music, should not let the opportunity slip by of visiting one of the best entertainments we have had for many years. Mr. and Mrs. German Reed have seldom been seen to greater advantage than in Mr. Gilbert's smart little piece; and we doubt if Mr. Morton's original farce, without Mr. Sullivan's charming accompaniments, was ever more humorously portrayed and created a greater amount of laughter than "Cox and Box," at the Gallery of Illustration, in the hands of Mr. German Reed, Mr. Arthur Cecil, and Mr. F. Seymour. Mlle. Rosa d'Erina takes her benefit on the 19th inst.

MR. GLADSTONE AND CONCURRENT ENDOWMENT.—An important correspondence containing the views of the Government on the question of concurrent endowment has recently been published. In answer to a memorial from the Independent Orange Association of Ulster, against the endowment of Romanism, Mr. Gladstone says that her Majesty's Government "will give no countenance either to a direct proposal of concurrent endowment, or to any plan for the postponement of those provisions of the bill which relate to the ultimate appropriation of the residuary property of the Church. They regard any such postponement, independently of the incalculable mischief of keeping alive the controversy for an indefinite period, as the almost acknowledged road to concurrent endowment at some future time." With respect to a paragraph of the memorial relative to the need of an equitable land measure for Ireland, Mr. Gladstone observes that "her Majesty's Government have already declared their intention, so soon as the Church question shall have been settled, to frame a measure for the improvement of those (the land) laws, which will aim at placing them on a footing of justice to all parties whom they may affect."

A GALLANT M.P.—The *Western Morning News* contains the following narrative:—"Mr. George Dance, his brother, and wife and child, the latter about four years old, were on their way from Beerferris on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Dance and his brother intending to return to Beerferris after seeing his wife safely across Chacks Ford, at the bottom of Maristow. The tide was flowing rapidly; and, when part of the way across, Mrs. Dance turned her head to speak to her husband, whom she had left standing on the bank of the river, and while doing so she pulled the wrong rein. The horse turned, and horse and trap was carried by the tide up the river. The cries of the woman were heard by Sir Massey Lopes as he was sitting in his room, and he was quickly on the spot. The boatman was absent, and Sir Massey tried to force open the boat-house to obtain the life-buoys. By this time both mother and child were in imminent danger. Owing to the struggles of the horse, the child fell into the water. Sir Massey rushed through the mud, plunged into the water, first secured the child and brought him safely to land, and then bravely returned to rescue Mrs. Dance, followed by Mr. R. White, of Maristow Barton. In this he was again successful. The mother and child were taken to Sir Massey's house, where stimulants and clothing were supplied; and meanwhile Sir Massey with great difficulty saved the horse. It need scarcely be said that the husband, who was the helpless spectator of the scene, was eager to express his gratefulness to Sir Massey Lopes for saving his wife and child."

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

THE Parliamentary Committee on the new law courts, of which Lord Stanley is chairman, has commenced its sittings, and some important evidence has been taken. Among other witnesses, Mr. Burnet, examined by Mr. Layard, said—He had been architect to the Commission nearly from the time the Royal Commission was constituted. He had never at any period of his life been connected with any other profession. He was consulted by the Incorporated Law Institution as to plans of the Carey-street site, but he was not in anywise responsible for the comparative statements which had been put forth regarding the Carey-street or Howard-street sites. He was aware that, at a meeting of the Royal Commission, held June 4 last, Sir Roundell Palmer proposed a motion approving of the Carey-street site, and condemning the Howard-street one, and that motion was based on his (witness's) plans. These plans, he admitted, were incorrect in minor details; and the way in which he accounted for the error was, that he took the plans published along with the report of the Commission in 1845 as being absolutely correct, while, in point of fact, a great many changes had taken place in the position of lawyers' offices. He prepared a plan reducing the size of the law courts. He was aware that Mr. Street had also prepared a plan, and he had also seen the criticism of his plans by Mr. Street, the accuracy of which he disputed.

By Mr. Cowper: If he had had more time allowed him a more correct map would have been prepared; but what the Incorporated Law Institution wanted was a map showing pretty closely what the Carey-street scheme would be when completed. The halls in the Carey-street scheme were not diminished in size by the reduction of the whole plan. He showed on the plan a street 60 ft. wide on the west side of the building. He was not able to state the sterling value of the Carey-street site.

By Mr. Morgan: The inaccuracies on the Carey-street plan are extremely favourable to the Howard-street site. There are a great many new offices arisen in the neighbourhood of the Carey-street site since 1845. He prepared the sideway scheme not in anywise to interfere with that of Mr. Street, but as a suggestion and to show how much of his scheme could be carried out in the land already purchased.

By the Chairman: The plan you prepared was merely a rough one, to show the Law Institution the various sites, and was not considered by you to be in all details most accurate?—Witness: That was the case.

Mr. Street, examined by the Chancellor of the Exchequer: He was architect for the new law courts. The "great plan," as witness termed it, provided everything which the original plan by the Royal Commission asked; and, including the streets round about it, the building would cover seven acres and a half. The court would be in a central block, with an external street round it for the free admission of light and air. There would be bridges of communication round the internal street, giving access to the outside offices beyond, and on to the outside ridge of the site. He had prepared certain accesses from the north and west, with an opening to the new square, by the purchase of certain houses on the north side of Carey-street, and an opening to Chancery-lane on the east front of the new building. It was proposed to include in the building the Probate Court, the Bankruptcy Court, Admiralty Court, Royal Commissions, &c. It appeared to witness that additional access streets were indispensable at Carey-street. Mr. Burnet made a calculation of the amount of the cost for the four additional buildings at an early stage of the proceedings; and in 1868 he again reported on the subject, naming the sum at £668,000, which was an increase of £50,000 upon his former estimate. Between Chancery-lane and Fleet-street there were a great many blocks of buildings in good repair. On the north side the buildings were not so bad. On the north-west they had Clare Market; but, as they had so many freeholds, it would not be an easy matter to get all the properties purchased. None of the buildings in the neighbourhood of Carey-street were lofty. The Howard-street site was about 220 ft. from the Strand. He proposed that the north side of Howard-street should be taken down to the depth of one house. From the east he would remove both sides of Essex-street, and from the south all the houses from Howard-street to the Embankment, which would give nearly five acres for building purposes, including courtyards for light and air. The merits of this site were, in the opinion of witness, that it was extremely good for light, air, and quiet, and in a situation good for architectural position. It would be lighter than Carey-street, and there would be less interruption from noise. There would be accesses to it, first, by the Thames Embankment, which would be the great south access, and it would be 100 ft. wide, and would join the new road from the Mansion House and go on to Westminster. There was also the access by Blackfriars Bridge, and from the north-east they could not be worse than by Chancery-lane to Carey-street, which was only 20 ft. wide. From the west they would come mainly along the Strand and the river embankment; and from the other side of the river, by Westminster Bridge. The difficulty of the approach by Wellington-street he would overcome by availing himself of Somerset House-terrace to reach the building. An alteration would be made on the line of the proposed railway-station, which would prevent any annoyance or inconvenience, and by that means an objection would be removed that at one time appeared serious. He considered the approaches to Howard-street good. He had a high opinion of the architectural qualities of the Howard-street ground. In his opinion the main defect in architecture would be from the Embankment side of the building. As shown on the ground plan, the building would be on a curve, and there was a popular objection that, if they did not go in a straight line with Somerset House, there should be a great defect. He admitted that an unbroken front with Somerset House was most desirable; still he acknowledged that the river front of Somerset House could not be admired. His design projected 50 ft. beyond that point, and would hardly hide any portion of Somerset House, as there was such a curve on the Embankment. He saw no reason for rules of conformity, and breaks were often of advantage. Looking down on the buildings from the Strand would not be a serious objection, as many buildings looked very well under similar circumstances. In his opinion the view from Waterloo Bridge would be a very good one. As to the foundations, it had been ascertained from the borings by the railway company and the Thames Embankment Commissioners that first they had mud and sand, then gravel and sand, and then clean sand. He thought if they carried the foundations 25 ft. deep they would get a good bed; and in Carey-street they would require just as deep for a good foundation. It was possible they might require to go deeper in some places than what he had named; but he believed he had struck the average depth. Howard-street had one advantage—they could bring stone by river and lay it on the Embankment. The removal of the material from the slip to the building would be a mere trifle; there would be no interruption to traffic, and he estimated there would be a gain of 5 per cent on the building in Howard-street against Carey-street. He believed the railway rails would be laid 17 ft. below the roadway, showing that 25 ft. was deep enough for the foundation. In the Howard-street scheme he gave three courts, which admitted of more light and air, which was of the utmost importance to the courts. In this plan there would be eighteen courts on the one level; and, by a calculation he had made, the cost of erecting the building would be £900,000, including the foundations. He had not submitted his measurements to the Board of Works, but if his scheme were carried out he was satisfied with his calculations. There was also great need of a cabstand for the convenience of lawyers and suitors. The reduced plan for Howard-street would correspond with that of Carey-street, to be raised on the ground already purchased. The land in Carey-street had the same disadvantages as the ground in Howard-street, its shape being unfavourable and irregular on the western side. The light would not be so good as in Howard-street and the air would not be so free, owing to its not having so much ventilation. In regard to quiet, the Strand would always be noisy. The noise in the Strand could not be heard in Howard-street, nor by any

means could it interfere with business. The approach to Carey-street would be through narrow streets and sharp turns, and little would be gained in that way by the reduced plans. The distance between Carey-street building and the adjoining streets varied from 10 ft. to 55 ft. He contended that no building should be nearer than 60 ft. to the courts; and if the adjoining properties were purchased, the streets widened, and new buildings put up, the difficulty would be solved. There could be no difference in the course of erection between Carey-street and Howard-street, only the latter gave more light, air, and quiet. So far as convenience and access goes, Howard-street must be preferred.

Mr. Layard: I suppose you have come to that conclusion after fully considering the whole question?—Witness: I have done so.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: Just so; and I suppose if you pitch upon a densely-populated quarter in London, and say that you wish it as a site, and have unlimited means at your command, you will make a good site out of it, won't you?—Witness: I daresay we could. The plans for Carey-street show the building to be a flat higher than the Howard-street ones, the courts are to be narrower, and the light and air must be defective.

Mr. Layard: Were the Government not to accept the Howard-street plan, the ground for fencing purposes would only be suitable for hotels and boarding-houses. He had heard the report that, in the event of Government not accepting the site, the North-Western intended erecting a station at that point. Were such an unsightly building to be put on the Embankment, it would destroy the appearance of the law courts in Carey-street. This "great sight" would not interfere with the ornamental gardens granted by Parliament to the Thames Embankment Commissioners. Care had been taken to keep the building higher up; he was aware that the Law Institution were adding another flat to their building, and it would help to darken the Carey-street site.

Mr. Cowper could see no difficulty in putting the reduced buildings on to the Carey-street site. The height the Judges would have to ascend would be equal to that from Westminster Hall to the committee-rooms of the House of Commons; and he did not consider that a serious objection. His Carey-street plan was quite satisfactory, and an improvement on the other, as it admitted more light and air.

Do you think it would be desirable, for the convenience of the clerks, that they should have a pleasant prospect from the Thames Embankment—have a commanding view of the shipping passing up and down the river in place of attending to their work?—Well, I hardly think so.

Mr. Cowper: Parties coming by train would reach the quadrangle by the bottom of Essex-street, and by the eastern entrance to the central court; those coming from the north would gain admittance to the courts by the same entrance.

OBITUARY.

LORD TAUNTON.—Lord Taunton died between two and three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, after an illness of only a few hours. Although he did not attend the House of Lords on Monday, he drove out in an open carriage, and it was only on Tuesday that the fatal symptoms appeared. Although never in the first rank of politics, Lord Taunton's career had been throughout one of high distinction. Born in 1798, he took a first class in classics at Oxford in 1820, and was early initiated into official life. He was a Lord of the Admiralty from 1832 to 1834, Vice-President of the Board of Trade from 1835 to 1839, then for a short time Under-Secretary of the Colonies, and then, returning to his former office, but with augmented rank, President of the Board of Trade from 1839 to 1841. He was, as he reminded the House in his last considerable speech, Chief Secretary for Ireland from July, 1846, to July, 1847, including, therefore, a large portion of the famine period, and on leaving Ireland he resumed once more his old place at the Board of Trade, which he filled from 1847 until 1852, during which time he took a leading part in the repeal of the Navigation Laws. In 1855 he became Secretary of State for the Colonies, which office he held until 1858, and in the following year he was raised to the Peerage as Lord Taunton, a title which he assumed in compliment to the borough he had represented for nearly thirty years. Although he sat ten years in the House of Lords, Lord Taunton will be best known as Mr. Labouchere, under which name the longer as well as the more active portion of his political life was spent, but in both Houses of Parliament he was generally and highly respected. Before entering Parliament he travelled in the United States and in Canada, with Lord Derby and the present Speaker of the House of Commons; and, both by material interests and by sympathy, he was largely connected with America. By his first wife, a daughter of Sir Thomas Baring and sister of Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P.—who also died suddenly, in 1850—he had several daughters, one of whom is married to Captain Ellis, Equerry of the Prince of Wales. Lord Taunton subsequently married, in 1852, Lady Mary Howard, daughter of the sixth Earl of Carlisle, who survives him. Lord Taunton's last public employment was as Chairman of the Endowed Schools Commission; but in whatever capacity he appeared, he increased the reputation he had early gained as a scholar, as a gentleman, and as a zealous and able servant of the public.

WILLIAM JERDAN.—Forty years ago there were few names better known in London society and in the world of letters than that of William Jerdan. Surviving almost all his literary contemporaries, he died on the 11th inst., at Bushey-heath, in his eighty-eighth year. A native of Kelso, and educated at Edinburgh for the Scottish law, he came to London to push his way in literature. Of his varied fortunes in this precarious profession he has given a faithful record in his "Autobiography," published about fifteen years ago. His genial spirit, ready wit, and abundant anecdote made him a welcome guest in other than mere literary circles. With most of the notable personages of the last fifty years he had personal acquaintance, and with some of the men of highest mark in literature and politics he was on terms of intimacy. An interesting volume of personal recollections, entitled "Men I have Known," appeared two years ago, inscribed to the then Chief Baron (Sir Frederick) Pollock, also a Borderer, with whom Mr. Jerdan since boyhood had maintained an unbroken friendship. It was Mr. Jerdan who, in the lobby of the old House of Commons, seized Bellingham, the assassin of Mr. Perceval. At that time one of the reporters for the Press, his connection with periodical literature continued for half a century. In recent numbers of *Fraser's Magazine* are contributions from his pen; and the last two parts of the *Gentleman's Magazine* contains an article on the celebrated Beefsteak Club which no other living man could have written from personal knowledge. For several years recently he has contributed to the *Leisure Hour* a series of reminiscences of distinguished men, illustrated by characteristic letters. Of the Royal Literary Fund in its early days he was a zealous advocate, and by his influence greatly aided its prosperity. His kindly help was always afforded to young aspirants in literature and art, and his memory will be cherished by many whom he helped to rise to positions of honour and independence. Late in life he received a pension of £100 a year for his long services to literature.

CANON THORNTON.—The death is announced of the Rev. Canon Thornton, the oldest clergyman in the diocese of Peterborough. He entered Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge, in the first year of the present century, and took his B.A. degree in 1804. He was ordained in 1805 by Bishop Spencer Madan, and in the following year was constituted to the Rectory of Brockhall, which he held up to the time of his death. In 1844 he was nominated by Bishop Davys to an honorary Canonry in Peterborough Cathedral.

A DOUBLE MEANING FOR DISENDOWMENT.—People seem to forget that the monosyllable "dis" used in composition has two meanings. There is the Latin "dis," which means separation; the Greek "dis," which means doubling. In the case of the bill for "Disendowing the Irish Church," the Commons employ "dis" in the former sense; the Lords in the latter.—*Punch.*

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

Louis Midson, the landlord of a public-house at Alperton, near Harrow, who some weeks since shot his wife in a fit of passion, and afterwards attempted suicide, was put on his trial for wilful murder at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and recommended him to mercy on account of the provocation he had received. Lord Chief Justice Bovill sentenced the prisoner to five years' penal servitude. The prisoner appeared quite overcome at the sentence, and it was necessary for the turnkeys to assist him from the bar. The man who called himself Major-General Haines, of the Madras Army, and who committed bigamy with a young lady from Scarborough for the sake of obtaining a sum of £700 in the funds which she possessed, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with bigamy. The Common Serjeant sentenced him to five years' penal servitude. Mr Samuel Greenway Finney, the general manager of the English Joint-Stock Bank, now in course of liquidation, pleaded guilty before the Recorder to an indictment charging him with fraudulently appropriating to his own use a sum of £666 13s. 4d. belonging to a public company of which he was an officer. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

POLICE.

AN EXTENSIVE BIGAMIST.—A man named Walter Sedley, alias Sydney, described as an artist, was charged, at the Lambeth Police Court, on Monday, with bigamy. It was proved that he was married, in 1862, at Westminster, to a young woman named Bull, who is now living in Durham; and Julia Forrest, of 170, Kennington-lane, said she was married to him, at Brixton, on April 19, 1863. She lived with him two years, but during that time he frequently left her. He finally left her while she was very ill, with a child six weeks old. He pledged every article he could lay hands on, and treated her in a shameful manner, after taking and spending £50 she had. A number of letters were found on the prisoner, which left little doubt that he had deceived many other women. He had promised to marry, about a fortnight ago, a young woman, at Newington, whom he had seduced, and from whom he had obtained several sums of money, and at the same time he was corresponding with another woman. It appears, from some specimens of the letters shown to the magistrate, that the prisoner had answered or inserted some of the matrimonial advertisements which appear in a certain class of cheap periodicals. He was remanded.

CONVICTION UNDER THE MEDICAL ACT.—At Lambeth Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. William Bramley Taylor, Pine House, Camberwell Park, was charged under the Medical Act, the 21st and 22nd of Victoria, cap. 90, by summons, with wilfully and falsely pretending to be a surgeon. Mr. Ingram, barrister, appeared for the complainant, Mr. William Francis, in support of the summons. Mr. Pritchard was for the defendant. The complainant stated that a plate had appeared on the door of the house that the defendant was a surgeon. Mr. Trimmers produced the "Medical Register," and proved that the defendant's name did not appear in the same. Mr. Ingram submitted that he had proved that the defendant had acted in contravention of the Act. Mr. Pritchard, on the part of the defendant, called his father, Mr. Taylor, who stated that the defendant had passed his examination, but was not enabled to pass the College of Surgeons until November last. He had acted under his directions. He had put up his name, and, although he was aware of the Act, he did not know he was offending against the law. Mr. Pritchard contended that the statute did not apply to the present case, as the defendant had not wilfully or falsely pretended that he was a surgeon. Mr. Elliott was of opinion that the offence was proved, and inflicted a penalty of £5 and 2s. expenses. The money was paid.

BAD MEAT.—At the Guildhall, on Monday, George Henry Barnes, a grease-boiler, carrying on business at Mellis, in Suffolk, was summoned by Mr. James Newman, one of the inspectors of meat under the Commissioners of Sewers for the city of London, before Sir William Anderson Rose, for sending the carcass of a pig to the New Meat Market for sale, the same being diseased and unfit for the food of man. Mr. Baylis prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioners of Sewers, and Mr. Edmund Thomas appeared for the defendant. Mr. James Newman said that on June 17 last his attention was called to the carcass of a pig in the shop of Messrs. Campbell and Eustace, meat salesmen in the New Meat Market. The carcass was that of a sow that had apparently suffered from inflammation, caused by what was termed "going to store" and being unable to litter. The meat was wet and flabby, showing evident signs of disease, and the dogs had been cut off to hide the complaint. The foreman gave him a note purporting that the meat came from Mr. Roof, of Mellis; and, on the 22nd of June, he went to that place and saw Mr. Roof, who told him the sow belonged to the defendant. He then went to Barnes, and he admitted sending up a pig to London in Mr. Roof's name, and that the note in question was in his handwriting. He said the pig was his, and that it had ceased to take food, and that was the reason he had killed it. Roof saw the carcass, and persuaded him to send it to London. The meat was unwholesome and dangerous to be eaten. It was condemned by Alderman Salomons. Two other inspectors having confirmed Mr. Newman's statement as to the condition of the meat, Mr. Thomas contended that there was no evidence to show that the pig which was sent to Campbell and Eustace's was the one the defendant had sent up, for it might have got changed on the road. Sir William A. Rose said he was quite satisfied by the evidence that the pig sent up by the defendant was the one that was condemned as unfit for human food. Mr. Thomas then said he would prove that the pig sent up was sound and good, and he called John Roof, a publican and butcher of Mellis-town, Suffolk, who stated that on June 14 last the defendant asked him to look at a pig he had killed, and give his opinion as to whether he should cut it up there, or send it to London, and he advised him to send it to London. It was a good clean piece of meat, and he would have bought it himself for his own use had he

known as much of it then as he knows now. Sir William A. Rose told the prisoner he could sentence him to imprisonment for three months. He had been acting under the advice of a butcher of thirty-five years' standing, and it was clear to him that he sent the meat to London knowing that it was unfit for human food. He would, however, not inflict the full sentence upon him, but send him to prison for one month.

John Bryant, a farmer, of Wortham, in Suffolk, was also summoned by Mr. Newman for sending the carcasses of four sheep to the same salesmen on the previous day for sale, the same being unwholesome and unfit for the food of man. Mr. Baylis prosecuted in this case, and Mr. Thomas defended. After the evidence had been given, Mr. Thomas said he could not contend against it, and must make an appeal to the mercy of the Court. His client was a respectable young man, and employed the witness Roof to kill the sheep, and it was his duty to have advised him not to send them to London. But he seemed to recommend everybody to do wrong, and to keep out of it himself. Sir William A. Rose said he was in considerable difficulty in this case, because the defendant had brought with him such a very good character; but, after the evidence of the condition of the meat, he should not be doing his duty to the public if he did not send the defendant to prison for a month. He only regretted that he had not the power of sending the witness Roof to prison also, for he appeared to be the person who gave the advice to send such meat to London. He then reprimanded Roof, and cautioned him as to his future conduct. Mr. Baylis asked the magistrate to disallow Roof's expenses, which he did.

A NEW SWINDLE.—At Worship-street, last Saturday, a respectable-looking woman, keeping a fancy stationery shop in Kingsland, said, a few days ago two men called on her, offering a sample of cedar-cased pencils, and she bought a few. They had not left the shop many minutes before another man entered and requested her to execute an order for some cedar-cased pencils to the amount of £1 15s. within two hours, when he said he would call for them. The two men who had first called soon after returned, and she was about to give them the order and cash, but altered her mind, and went to Clerkenwell to get the goods herself. She then found that the whole was a sham. This had been going on for some three months, in which time many persons had been victimised, and had advanced money to the men, who never returned with the pencils, and the persons ordering them never came. Mr. Ellison said he could only hope that the publicity given to the trick would prevent its repetition.

BETTING CLUBS.—At Marylebone, on Monday, the case of the Marylebone Club was again brought under the notice of Mr. Mansfield. Mr. Lawrence Emmanuel and Mr. Thomas Russell appeared to their summons charging them with being concerned in keeping and conducting a place for the purpose of betting, at 22, Henrietta-street, Marylebone. Mr. Serjeant Sleigh and Mr. Collins appeared for the defence; Mr. Meadows White appeared to prosecute for the Police Commissioners. Police Constable Boyle, 77, X, said he went to the house in plain clothes and took out a ticket of membership, for which he paid 5s. Mr. Emmanuel got it for him. The witness was then admitted, and saw betting-lists affixed to the wall with cards in them. He saw both defendants make bets and receive money. He went to the club with a man known as "Dickie," a backer of horses, and it was with his assistance he obtained his membership. Inspector Hindes, D division, said he went with the superintendent, and in the yard found sixteen persons, whom they apprehended. He found papers and the rules of the club. There were two or three boards there, with betting-cards attached to them. The cards had figures on them. He also produced a subscriber's book dated from November, 1868, to November, 1869. He found Boyle's name entered in it. Mr. Serjeant Sleigh said this was as much a club as Tattersall's. At this club a bet was never made unless with a co-member, and no one but members were allowed to enter. It had been said that it was essential that Tattersall's should be upheld in order the more effectually to support one of the noblest of English sports—horse-racing. If Tattersall's was to be allowed to exist, why not this club, where respectable tradespeople chose to become members and make their bets? Was there a title of evidence to show that the parties were owners or occupiers of the place in the sense contemplated by the Act, that they had it for the purpose of gain? He would take it that if Mr. Emmanuel made a bet with members of his own club, it was only acting as Messrs. Tattersall do, in their subscription-rooms. Take it and place it, for argument's sake, upon the highest ground his Worship liked: his clients had as much right to make a bet with a co-member as the members of Tattersall's had with each other. They had a perfect right to bet as they thought proper. It was Jeremiah Emmanuel who was secretary, and not Lawrence. So that clearly proved he was only a co-member, and not a secretary. It was clear they were dealing with a criminal statute; and, if his learned friend sought to show that his clients were not members of the club, he should have adduced proof. He should like to know why this establishment should be brought within the meshes of the law, when the large establishment was allowed to escape. His Worship had very properly remarked from that bench that he could not understand why little flies were caught, and large ones allowed to escape. Mr. Mansfield said he would give his decision on Thursday next.

A PHILOSOPHICAL SUICIDE.—On Wednesday Dr. Lankester held an inquest at the Castle Tavern, Holloway-road, on the body of Thomas Cooper, aged twenty-four, a clerk out of employment, who, whilst hanging, is believed to have stabbed himself to the heart, leaving a document which indicated his determination to destroy himself. A sister of the deceased stated that she was in the habit of visiting her brother, on Sundays, at his lodgings, 36, Park-street. She saw him last alive on Sunday, when his manner appeared very strange, so much so that she called in the evening, and finding his door locked, she became alarmed; and, on the door being broken open, he was found hanging. She identified a quantity of

papers found in the room as being in deceased's handwriting. There were poetical effusions of great length, nicely composed and well written; but amongst them the following, indicating clearly the deceased's intention to destroy himself:—"Let the destroying hand be stopped. These are my last words. I acquit everybody of everything. I accuse nobody of anything. If I have injured anybody I shall do so no more. If I have accused anybody of anything which might be prejudicial to them in the future, I here recant my words." After several sentences in a similar strain, the document proceeds:—"I leave behind my writings: let them be taken for works of art, and nothing more. They are metaphysical conceptions only, and do not refer particularly to individuals. They are intellectual exercises, and must be taken for nothing else. I make no prophecies—foretell no disasters. My legacy is peace to all—to nations and to individuals. —Signed, F. G. Cooper." Mr. F. Healey deposed to being called in, and to breaking open the room door and finding deceased hanging from a nail in the door by a cord, and quite dead; but saw no blood, although he saw two knives—one a pocket-knife. Mr. Healey, a surgeon, said deceased had been attended by him, and was removed from an underground kitchen to his present lodging, where his sister maintained him. He was very weak. Dr. Buckle, when called to see deceased on Sunday evening, considered he had been dead about three hours. He found gashes cut on the arms, and three stabs in the chest. Found clotted blood on the hair, which was otherwise healthy. Deceased had had food, but was emaciated, and showed that at times he had been on the verge of starvation. The stabs in the chest were so deep that one of them had penetrated the heart; and Dr. Buckle gave it as his opinion that deceased had stabbed himself whilst he was hanging, and that death had resulted from the combined loss of blood and strangulation. Verdict, "That deceased destroyed himself by hanging and stabbing whilst in an unsound state of mind."

A MARRIAGE ARRANGED BY A JUDGE.—At the Leicester Assizes a farm servant named William Shields, twenty-three years of age, was charged with perjury, the case arising out of an affidavit case, the prisoner denying the authorship of several letters written by him to the complainant, Mary Burt. The case had not proceeded far when the prisoner said he was anxious to marry the prosecutrix, and she observed that she would have married him had he behaved properly to her. The Chief Justice (to the prisoner): Are you ready to marry her? Prisoner: Yes, my Lord; I'll marry her the first opportunity (loud laughter, in which the Judge heartily joined). The Chief Justice: But what does Mary say to that? Prosecutrix: I am quite willing. The Chief Justice: I think there must be a conviction, and, perhaps, the best plan will be to respite the sentence till next assizes, and if in the mean time they settle the matter by marriage that will be the best way to settle it. The conduct of the prisoner has been most gross and wicked, but, as he is now sorry, this will be the best way to settle the case. The jury found a verdict of guilty, and the Chief Justice said: Prisoner, you must be bound over to come up for judgment at the next assizes, but I hope you will not be called upon. Prisoner: Oh, I'll marry Mary before then, my Lord (laughter).

A FAMILY POISONED.—An extraordinary case of poisoning, in which nine persons have had a very narrow escape from death, is reported from West Cornwall. Mr. Huddy, farmer, of Tredinnick, was first taken suddenly ill soon after he had dressed himself in the morning. He appeared to be wandering in his mind. The symptoms rapidly grew more alarming, and Mr. Bennett, surgeon, of Gregory, was sent for. By the time he arrived Miss Huddy was also seized in a similar manner. Another sister, who was at Gregory, went to wait upon her brother and sister, but had not been long in the house when she also became ill; and the same happened to a Mrs. Crago, who is also a sister to Mr. Huddy. Mrs. Elliott, a neighbouring farmer's wife, then came to the assistance of the prostrated family, but soon shared the like fate, and the servant-man and three other persons who came to nurse the family, making nine in all, were speedily seized in a similar manner. From the rapidity of the attacks and the symptoms manifested, Mr. Bennett considered that it was an outbreak of Asiatic cholera; but on the arrival of Dr. Barham, of Truro, that gentleman at once pronounced it to be a decided case of poisoning. Upon inquiry, it was found that all the sufferers had partaken of a batch of bread baked on Thursday. Miss Huddy herself made the bread, assisted by the servant Pill, who brought her the flour, &c. The girl Pill was under notice to leave. Dr. Barham, having satisfied himself that his patients had been poisoned, sent for the girl and told her to bring him the remaining loaf of bread, but she returned and stated that she could not find it. The loaf has entirely disappeared, the police, who have been investigating the matter, being unable to discover it. A striking circumstance connected with the affair is that every person who partook of food in the house, except the servant Pill, was seized with illness. It was at first feared that some of them would succumb to the effects of the poison, but all are now in a fair way of recovery.

A LUNATIC NURSE.—At Rottingdean, on Sunday morning last, a woman named Lucy Miles, between twenty and thirty years of age, took her nephew, a child aged two years and a half, out for a walk. After she had been gone some time she was met by a coastguardman, to whom she said she had thrown a child over the cliff. She added, "Go down, and you will find it." At this part of the cliff it is estimated to be 100 ft. high. Some persons went down immediately by the nearest of the narrow tracks by which here and there the cliff is descended. They found the child all but lifeless, and totally unable to move from the fearful injuries he had received. Medical aid was at once procured, and every effort made to give the child relief; but the fearful fall he had sustained rendered all surgical assistance useless, and the child soon died. The coastguardman as soon as possible called the police, and the woman was taken into custody. She was taken to Lewes and lodged in the police-station. The

child's name was Harry Miles Sherlock, and he was the son of a shepherd. The accused is his mother's sister, and her parents reside at Kingston, where her father is a labourer. She had been staying at Rottingdean, and had been in the habit of taking out the deceased, of whom she had always appeared very fond. She had been an inmate of Hayward's-heath Lunatic Asylum some time back. It was between eleven and twelve o'clock on Sunday when she took the child out and when she met the coastguardman. When the accused was taken to the lock-up she was seen by Dr. Smythe, and it is said he is of opinion that she is insane. She was charged before the magistrate with the wilful murder of the deceased, when, some short evidence having been given, she was remanded.

SHOCKING DISCOVERY.—A day or two since a carpenter named George Daniels, living at Croydon, saw a number of boys at the edge of a pond formed in a disused gravel-pit, throwing stones at what appeared to them, and to him at first, the body of a dead dog or cat. Volley after volley of stones were thrown at this object, until Daniels became convinced it was the head of a human being which was just above the surface of the water, when he made the boys cease throwing. By the aid of a hook, attached to a sashline, the object was reached, and the body of a young man, much decomposed, was brought to the edge of the pond. Upon inquiry it was found that the name of the deceased was William Cook, and the circumstances of his death were somewhat singular. It appeared that John Tate, an engine-driver in the service of Mr. Ashby, miller, found the deceased a week or so since, near Mr. Ashby's kitchen garden, having in his possession nine cabbages, and took him into custody. The deceased broke away and was retaken, but got away from Tate a second time, and ran in the direction of the pond. Tall grass hides the declivity approaching the pond, and no doubt the deceased ran headlong into the water, which is twelve feet deep. These facts came out upon the inquest, and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

THE "GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY OF THE LAW." A case which came before the House of Lords on Tuesday painfully shows, in the fluctuating decisions upon it, the uncertainty of law. The Hammersmith and City Railway Company was sued some time ago for compensation in respect of damage done to the value of a house through the vibration of the trains and the smoke of the engine fires. The Court of Queen's Bench decided that no compensation could be claimed, as the running of trains was a legalised use of the line. The Exchequer Chamber reversed this decision. On Tuesday the House of Lords set aside this reversal, and affirmed the judgment of the Queen's Bench.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 9.

BANKRUPTS.—H. R. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, Philke-J. T. HADLAND, Fudge, commission agent—R. THEDDING, Threadneedle-street, dealer in stocks—J. THORNTON, Marylebone-road, carpenter—G. HUNT, Bow, licensed victualler—J. KELLY, Hammersmith—F. F. WHITE, Dunstable, builder—M. and J. ALKER, Harnsey, builders—R. SMITH, Harnsey, builder—G. ALDRIDGE, Kensington, photographer—W. KIRBY, Stationer, elder manufacturer—W. PATTON, Walworth, pork butcher—W. SWANN, Bethnal-green, butcher—G. J. FIRMEN, White-chapel, chemist—G. WOODHEAD, Liverpool, tobaccoist—H. HENLEY, Bermondsey, baker—T. BRUCE, Oxford, butcher—W. LEE, New Windsor, butcher—H. W. and F. A. OLIPHANT, Westminster, army contractors—R. H. DAVIES, Kentish Town-road, linendraper—G. MEKE, Merton, brush-maker—R. ROWE, Lambhouse, carpenter—D. JAMES, Lower Park-road—J. STED, Grosvenor—J. D'AETH, Little Britain, warehouseman—C. KHEEN, Foster-lane, City, leather-bag manufacturer—F. BOKER, Lower Tooting, upholsterer—F. W. MONK, Norwood, brickmaker—W. DOOLEY, Isle of Wight, builder—J. W. WATKINS, builder—E. S. LINTOTT, Peckham-tye, commission agent—J. ALDRIDGE, City-road, coachsmith—J. WOODHAMS, Lambhouse, butcher—J. W. BIRD, Blythe-lane, Ham-remish, commission agent—C. G. ROUGH, Birmingham—T. UNDERWOOD, Birmingham, lithographer—H. NEWBY, Birmingham, commission agent—W. J. LAMBS, Bristol, tea merchant—J. GLOVER, Leeds, book-keeper—T. BRUMFITT, Skipton, cabinetmaker—W. H. HUDSON, Bradford, tailor—J. DOEL, Hoole, innkeeper—H. MONTAGUE, Liverpool, manager of a theatrical company—D. ROBERTS, Taly-sarn, publican—T. MELLOR, Manchester, tinseller—T. EDGWISE, Houghton-le-Spring, butcher—A. SUTCLIFFE, Rochdale—T. WILSON, Rochdale, painter—C. PARKS, Worcester, racing-house keeper—J. JAMES, West Dean, working miner—J. STEPHENS, Lancashire, planer—G. MEDCALFE, Utterston, shoemaker—R. BUTLER, Astbury, Cheshire, brick grinders—R. MEKE, Manchester, baker—T. BAMFORD, Preston, contractor—J. LEYLAND, Preston, engine-tender—J. CROFTON, Thornton, boat and shoe maker—R. F. WEDGILL, Durham—J. EDEN, Walkden Moor, labourer—E. FISHER, Yeasdale, grocer—W. H. ELLIOTT, Torquay, wheelwright—H. A. READ, Bristol, clerk—J. MIDDLETON, Sheffield, stove-grate fitter—R. B. Sissons, Gateshead, market gardener—E. EVANS, Wimpole, shoe-maker—T. HODGKIN, Horsham, general dealer—A. EVANS, Southampton, baker—W. OGLEBY, Brig, furniture-maker—G. CARLISLE, jun., Burslem, hatter—J. BEST, Whitham, wheelwright—G. SIMPSON, brig, dealer—W. NEWNHAM, Isle of Wight, baker—A. SIMON, Morley Tyndal, earthenware dealer—H. WILMOT, Winchester, contractor—W. SUTTON, Sherborne, shipwright—H. WARDINGLY, Dorchester, commercial traveller—W. H. MOORE, Brighton, tobaccoist—H. J. MOORE, Brighton—F. MUSEBAY, Brighton, theatrical manager—T. F. GILBERT, Brighton—J. H. DINES, Brighton—T. GALLAGHER, Brighton, greengrocer—J. REED, Leeds, bookseller—T. WILLIAMS, Brynmill, labourer.

TUESDAY, JULY 13.

BANKRUPTS.—R. ALEXANDER, Limehouse, timber-dealer—J. BEARD, Barnes, licensed victualler—F. F. BINGHAM, Peckham, baker—R. C. BRUCE, Woolwich-common, Adjutant—A. S. BURROWS, Baywater—J. J. BUTSON, Stoke Newington, painter—R. S. BUTTENS, St. John's-wood, clerk—J. CLARK, Bermondsey, baker—T. CLARK, Dalwich, carpenter—C. COUGHLAN, Notting-hill—S. COLLIS, Stoke Newington, commercial traveller—T. H. COOPER, Kingston-upon-Thames, grocer—G. FOLGER, St. John's-wood, teacher of music—W. H. GIBBINS, Greenwich, house decorator—J. GILES, West Hamney, beer-shop keeper—W. G. HORSLEY, Calcuttan-road, commission agent—W. HUNT, Folkestone, omnibus-driver—H. JAMES, Goodman's-fields, clothier—J. JAMES, Elizabeth-street, Aston-quare, bra-huaker—R. JAMES, Pimlico, coachbuilder—J. LITTLEJOHN, Upper Norwood, builder—J. MILBURN, Romford, builder—J. R. MAYHO, Marylebone, oil and colour man—R. G. MOLE, Bloomsbury, hivery-stable keeper—E. T. MOORE, now, licensed victualler—R. RUMBLELOW, Cardiff, shipwright—H. NICHOLLS, Old Wandsworth, builder—G. NICOLL, Regent-quadrant, hairdresser—A. PAINS, Lee, beer and wine shop keeper—L. FAIGE, Whitefield, clerk in holy orders—G. W. FENN, Southgate, commercial traveller—R. G. SALTER, Finsbury, licensed victualler—M. SCHONRODE, Great Tower-street, cornbroker—A. H. SCHOLEY, Peckham, ballast merchant—R. SCOTT, Hackney-road, carpenter—R. and R. W. SHEERWOOD, Plumstead, ferris—T. J. WALTON, Great St. Helier's, merchant—J. WESTON, Cornhill, ship-store agent—R. WOODWARD, Islington, estate agent—W. WOODS, Baitie, builder—F. ANDREWS, Gastonbury, innkeeper—G. BALL, South Brent, blacksmith—G. D. F. BLACK and A. S. PEARSON, Liverpool, commission agents—W. BRANDRETH and W. HOLLAND, Leicester, shoe manufacturers—F. BRANNAN, Birkenhead—J. BROWN, Kingston-upon-Hull, cow-keeper—J. J. CETHAM, Rochdale, painter—F. J. CROCKET, Shalton—R. DEBRICK, Snelton, innkeeper—T. FOLKES, Smeeth, boot retailer—E. W. ORAM, Colyton, butcher—J. GALLON, jun., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, licensed victualler—W. F. GLANVILLE, Pembroke Dock, flour merchant—J. GRAVEN, Ely, engineer—M. HENRY, East Hove, private tutor—J. v. HEBBER, Moulse Cottenham, teacher of languages—W. HODGLEY, Southampton, clerk—G. HOWLAND, Chipping Wycombe, chair-trainer—J. JACKSON, Manchester, bricklayer—J. JONES, Beaulieu, carpenter—J. JONES, Birmingham, bell-founder—G. KERSHAW, Odham, smith—J. LEE, WHELLIN, Pembroke Dock, licensed victualler—L. MARK, Manchester, commission agent—W. MOLLARD, Tipton, chartermaster—A. SMITH, Bristol, baker—W. B. PAGE, Wolverhampton, refreshment-house keeper—J. REICHALD, Manchester, bookkeeper—G. PERKES, Tipton, chartermaster—W. TAUNTON, Gray's-inn, attorney-at-law—G. PADDON, Highweek, cabinetmaker—G. SMYTH, Gloucester-place, Fitzroy-square, tailor—C. J. WOODS, Leeds, tinner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. BADENACH, sen., Port Gordon, merchant—W. CURRIE, Troon, repeater—J. M'RAIG, Thurlhill, joiner—R. GARDNER, Strathvillan—J. HELLERMAN, Forres, jeweller—D. MACRAIL, Greenock, surgeon—G. WILSON, Windygates—F. WHELELL, Dundee, commission agent.

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